THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

VOL. 20, NO. 5 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2000

DNR Reports . . .
by Glenn Therres

In May, the DNR was petitioned to remove the Peregrine Falcon from the state's endangered species list. This species was delisted (the term means to remove from the endangered species list) nationally by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in August 1999. The petition raised legitimate reasons for declaring the species recovered in Maryland, therefore we decided that a review of the status of the Peregrine Falcon was warranted.

The review was conducted by a panel of experts, including DNR biologists and other experts from outside of the DNR. MOS was officially represented by Bob Ringler, with several other MOS members on the panel including Lynn Davidson, David Brinker, and myself. The other experts were Craig Koppie of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bill Seegar with the U.S. Army and an expert on arctic peregrines, Paul Burns representing the falconry community and a conservation officer with the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, and DNR's Scott Smith. We met in September to assess the status of the Peregrine Falcon in Maryland and determine if the species warranted continued listing as an endangered species under state law.

There are essentially two populations of Peregrine Falcons in Maryland, namely the breeding population and the migrants. The historic breeding population in Maryland was comprised of the subspecies *Falco peregrinus anatum*. The migrant population is primarily comprised of the subspecies *F. p. tundrius*, which breeds in Greenland and on the Canadian tundra.

Maryland's breeding population has always been small, with probably 5 to 10 pairs nesting annually. They nested on cliffs along the Potomac and Susquehanna rivers. Cliff sites in Maryland are few in number, thus limiting the population of nesting Peregrine Falcons. By the early 1950s the Peregrine Falcon had disappeared from Maryland as a nesting bird due to the effects of DDT and other organochlorine pesticides. By the mid 1960s, it has become extirpated as a breeding species from eastern North America and the subspecies *F. p. anatum* was listed as endangered by the federal government in 1970.

Restoration efforts in the east focused on the reintroduction of captively produced Peregrine Falcon young through a process called hacking. The young raised in captivity and released in the east were produced from several subspecies from around the world, including *F. p. anatum* from the western U.S. In

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It's a Shore Thing: the Annual MOS Conference in 2001
by Mike Callahan

The Annual MOS Conference will be held from August 10 – 12, 2001 in Salisbury and It's a Shore Thing, an Eastern Shore thing. Join us at Salisbury State University (SSU) for a great weekend of birding and the beginning of Fall Migration.

The Chapters of the Shore will host your 2001 MOS Conference at SSU. We have not been to SSU for a number of years and many renovations have taken place since then. You will be pleased with the facilities, especially the dining hall and conference facilities. Many of your favorite conference standards like the Silent Auction and Raffle, Research Paper presentations, Local Artists Display, Tally Rally and the book/gift store will be available for your convenience. To donate items for the Silent Auction and Raffle, contact Janelle Dietrich at 301-249-7155. This year we are asking Chapters across the State to solicit items for the Raffle.

The ID workshop was very successful last year, so we plan on providing one for you in Salisbury. Shorebird Identification will be a likely subject, and we don't mean the ones that play at Perdue Stadium. If you know of someone that would make a great workshop instructor, please let me know.

The first-to-register contest will be held again this year, so watch for your registration material that will be coming to you later this year and mail your registration in immediately. You will have to compete with Bonnie Ott, so don't hold back. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a weekend of birding fun. Please join us in Salisbury and rekindle old birding friendships or make new ones for the years to come.

Chapter Chatter
by Martha Waugh

MOS Founding Member Honored by Audubon — The National Audubon Society honored Chandler Robbins, Senior Ornithologist at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center of the U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Resources Division with the 2000 Audubon Medal. Robbins was recognized by Audubon for his work at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey for 50 years. The founder of the Breeding Bird Survey, he has authored or co-authored over 400 papers, books, and reports on ornithology, including the popular Golden Guide to Birds of North America. Over his lifetime, Robbins has enlisted thousands of volunteers to work together ensure the survival of our birds. He has captured and tagged over 175,000 individual birds comprising 400 species, and has been instrumental in developing many of the current techniques used to identify and determine the age and sex of birds. In 1965, Robbins initiated the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), a volunteer program which has annually generated substantial data on the status of North American breeding bird populations. In the

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For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for the January/February issue are:
January-March Calendar Activities:
November 25

All Other Submissions:
December 1

The President's Page
by Karen Morley

At the June 10 MOS Board meeting, Norm handed over the gavel and gave me some solemn words of advice: "Do as I say, not as I did, and write a President's column for the Yellowthroat". So, here goes. With the inducement of the New Millennium to start new goals and projects, MOS is taking some bold steps to put the organization on a sound and accountable foundation for the future. I'm very excited about several of these projects and want to share a couple of them with you. Your support is going to be critical in the days, months and years ahead if we are going to reach these goals. And, as we have a virtually new Executive Board (except for Norm as Past President), we really need and value your input and advice.

First, the Long Range Planning Committee, under the leadership of Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, is taking a serious look at MOS organizational goals - with a 2 year and a 5 year plan for each standing and special committee based on the MOS Mission Statement (adopted last year). The committee has established a demanding timeline for each committee to analyze and evaluate its current activities and come up with goals and proposed accomplishments to serve MOS in the future. It will allow us to see where we have committees which are over-worked, over-committed, or, in some cases, over - unnecessary to our current mission.

Another project is to prepare a prudent and balanced evaluation of the status, value and use of our Sanctuaries. Partners in Flight is doing an ecological survey of the properties, but we have little idea as to the current real estate/asset value of each property. We need to follow up with boundary surveys and a realistic analysis of use and maintenance needs for the future. We also need to look at the burden MOS puts on the local chapters who bear the brunt of day-to-day operations of a sanctuary. Is there a better way to do it? I have asked Bob Rineer, MOS past president, to head up the Sanctuary Assessment Project to take the steps necessary to put our Sanctuaries on a firm financial and ecological foundation.

We are also gearing up for another Breeding Bird Atlas. But more (much much more) about that in the future.

Finally, I have some exciting news. MOS has been notified that we are the recipient of a bequest of $500,000 from the estate of Georgetta Schenkel in Baltimore. While we do not yet have the money in hand, we are "dreaming" about how to use it.....and hope that each MOS committee and project "dreams" as well when they create their new long range goals and initiatives. For the immediate future it will be invested until those plans are a reality and MOS determines how best to use it to implement our mission in the 21st Century.

A Reminder about the MOS Scholarship Program
by Jean Fry

The Maryland Ornithological Society is searching for teachers, park rangers, camp counselors, and students who plan to make nature education a part of their career to apply for scholarships to Audubon ecology and ornithology camps in Maine, Connecticut, and Wyoming. The value of each scholarship is from $600 to $800 and covers the cost of tuition, room, and board for an intensive six-day course of field study and instruction. MOS has the potential to award ten scholarships. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the recipient.

Chapter presidents and chapter representatives are reminded to duplicate and distribute information sent to them in early September. It is important to follow up on potential applicants and make sure that they complete the process.

Each applicant must submit a letter of intent showing how the Audubon experience will be used to develop in young people an appreciation of our wild heritage and a sense of responsibility for the care and quality of our natural resources and environment. It is helpful if the applicant indicates which workshop he or she would like to attend. Two letters of recommendation are required, one of which must be from an MOS member or chapter. Applicants, who should be eighteen years or older, must also submit a current resume. Applications are due by January 31, 2001. Questions should be directed to: Jean Fry, 1202 Ridge Road, Pylesville, MD 21132. Phone: 410-452-8539. E-mail: jlfry@netfox.net.

DNR Reports . . .

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Maryland, the releases began in 1975 and continued through 1984 with a total of 90 young falcons being hacked during that time period. We published a report detailing this effort in 1993 (of which copies are still available). Releases were conducted at special towers around coastal Maryland, not at the historic cliff sites. Great Horned Owl predation at cliff sites in other states caused significant problems there, so in the mid-Atlantic states releases were conducted in marshes away from Great Horned Owls. It proved successful.

The first nesting of Peregrine Falcons in Maryland since the 1950s occurred in 1983 when two pairs nested; one on the Bay Bridge, the other on a marsh tower. Since than the number of breeding pairs has steadily increased to 12 pairs the past two years. Most of the pairs successfully raise young each year, averaging 2 young per pair. All nest sites are on artificial structures, including the special towers, three bridges, a building, and a lighthouse.

The migrant population passing through Maryland each fall has also steadily increased over the past 20 years. Dr. Seegar's research team is counting 500 to 1,000 peregrines during the peak of migration from Assateague Island each fall.

Armed with this population information, the panel reviewed the criteria used by the DNR to declare a species endangered and came to the following conclusions. The Peregrine Falcon population in Maryland has recovered to levels comparable to historic numbers, though not at historic locations, and that the species no longer warrants listing as an endangered species in Maryland. However, the panel did recommend that the breeding population be listed under the category of *In Need of Conservation* because of its dependency on management of artificial nesting structures. Under Maryland's endangered species act, any wildlife species in need of conservation measures for its continued ability to sustain itself may be listed as *In Need of Conservation* and receive certain protections under the endangered species act. The arctic peregrines migrating through the state would not be listed and would become another non-game bird, like most of the migratory birds we enjoy. A summary of the panel's findings is available.

The DNR has not formally proposed to delist the Peregrine Falcon from the state's endangered species list yet. Your thoughts and comments regarding this issue are encouraged. I can be reached by email at gtherres@dnr.state.md.us or by mail at DNR, Wildlife and Heritage Division, 580 Taylor Avenue E-1, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Chapter Chatter

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early years of the BBS project, the data was influential in documenting the consequences of DDT on birds. Today, the BBS remains important as the source of long-term monitoring information of bird populations throughout America.

Friends We Will Miss — The following is a tribute by Joy Wheeler to Elizabeth Fisher and Mitchell Gerber of the Baltimore Chapter published in the newsletter, "Chip Notes." "Seeing birds is of paramount importance to us in the Baltimore Bird Club. Yet, if truth be told, it's the people we are seeing the birds with that really matters. Since the last Chip Notes we have lost two of these people who have meant so much to us on the trails of Cylburn and beyond: Elizabeth Fisher and Mitchell Gerber. The very second time I visited Cylburn on a guided tour Elizabeth was the guide. (Andrew Simon was the guide on my first tour.) On my second tour I came as a chaperone to a high school class, the first time the guides had ever hosted a tour of children of that age. Elizabeth stretched their knowledge of biology up, almost to her level, with ease. I'm sure the students had not realized the marvelous possibilities of a walk in the woods. Elizabeth had a way of stretching whatever knowledge of natural history we might have towards her educated knowledge of mosses, ferns, fungi, wildflowers, and her specialty, insects, whenever she lectured to us or led us through little known spots in Maryland. Under her tutelage we almost forgot about birds. Mitchell Gerber did not forget about birds. For several years during his otherwise busy retirement he made it his business to keep Cylburn's feeders well enough stocked to attract the many birds we tour guides needed to excite our school visitors. Phyllis Gerber has been one of those guides and it was through her suggestion, I imagine, that Mitchell took on this duty. Paul Noell, birder extraordinaire himself, in a phone call to commiserate on our loss of Mitchell, related that in his estimation Mitchell was becoming pretty good at birding with the Lake Roland "regulars" as well. We will miss Elizabeth and Mitchell, but our birding will continue to be infused with their spirits."

Cecil Loses Member — Dr. Sandra W. Tomlinson passed away in March after a lengthy illness. Her illness prevented her from being active in the field, especially in the last year, but close friend and fellow birder Meta Little has fond memories of their annual spring bird trips. She relates that Sandy was "a very enjoyable and cheerful person, knowledgeable about the latest plays and books, as well as being an excellent birder." She liked to tell of a tree in her Texas back yard that attracted an unusual number of migrants. Dr. Tomlinson served as Dean of instruction and Chief Academic Officer at Cecil Community College from 1991 and was acting president of the College in the fall of 1998. Contributions may be sent to the Sandra W. Tomlinson Memorial Scholarship, Cecil Community College, One Seahawk Drive, North East, MD 21901.

Wedding Bells for Montgomery Member — William (Bill) Oberman and Lilia (Lily) Parekh were married on Saturday, September 23, 2000, at Fairfax Presbyterian Church in Fairfax, VA. Bill is a Past President (1969-70 and 1970-71) of the Montgomery County Chapter and a frequent speaker and slide presenter about his far-flung birding trips around the world. For many years in the seventies and eighties he was the compiler for the Seneca Christmas Bird Count, the Montgomery Chapter's "official" count – consistently one of the top counts in the country in terms of number of participants. He still conducts migratory bird banding at his second home in Calmes Neck, VA, high above the Shenandoah River, and hosted a Chapter field trip there in May 2000. In 1999, Bill was honored by the Chapter as guest-of-honor at the annual March Social.

Baltimore Bird Club Gains a Fledgling Member — Mary Paul, the Baltimore Bird Club's Vice President from 1999, and her husband Tim welcomed another fledgling born on August 16, 2000. They have named this most welcome boy, Dakota Dalton. Dakota was also a belated gift for Mary since he was born a day after her birthday. While leaving St. Agnes hospital after Dakota's birth, his two year old sister, Sierra Autumn, was sitting next to her daddy in the car giving "Whoo-Whoo" sounds for no apparent reason. When Tim returned to the hospital the next day he understood how she got the idea to mimic the birds when he noticed artificial Great-horned Owls placed atop the building. Sierra had apparently seen them the day before. The Paul's pet Nanday Conure parrots also celebrated with their own brood. After laying infertile eggs for five years they finally hatched out three chicks less than a week before Dakota's birth.

Allegany Chapter Honors Ken Hodgdon — At its annual Fall Banquet on November 11, the Allegany Chapter will honor Ken Hodgdon with a plaque that will be installed at the Blue Trail at Carey Run MOS Sanctuary, which will be renamed the Hodgdon Trail. Ken and his wife, Evelyn, are long-time members of the Chapter and Ken has served as president several times. Ken, a retired teacher and administrator with the Allegany schools, introduced many young people to nature, birding, and MOS. He writes a weekly column, *Nature Notes*, in the

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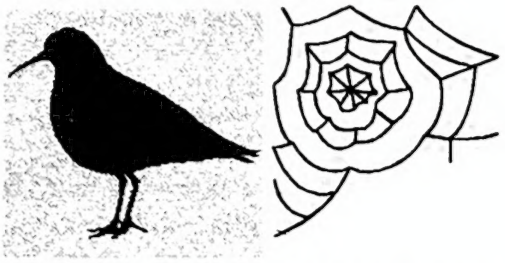
Birds on the Web



"The Better to See You" – Bird-related Web Cams
by Fran Saunders

You can get a bird's eye view of avian activity without even leaving your desktop by surfing the web for web-cam sites. Oh, I can hear you all now! "Uh, geek! What's web-cam?" Very simply, a web-cam is a video camera that produces pictures for the web. These camera arrangements can be very simple, or very sophisticated.

Web-cam sites fall into two main groups: those that show film shot previously and packaged for the web, and those that film live, with the action occurring as you watch. Sometimes a site offers a little bit of both and the sequences you see are delayed by a set amount of time. Many live cam sites go "offline" when the activity under review ceases for the season. For instance, cams pointed at nesting activity will often stop filming after the young have fledged. These sites will usually provide archives for your viewing pleasure until the action resumes. So don't be disappointed if the live-cams aren't functioning, you can still enjoy the films taken when the action was hot! Some sites have permanently ceased operations, because previously used nest sites, for instance, have been abandoned, or for a variety of other reasons. One site I visited apologized for loss of a nest and the related cam-activity when the tree that hosted the nest was chopped down! Even though these sites no longer show new video, you are still likely to find archived film. Some, however, just disappear completely, although you may still find them listed in the search engines. You need to have a little patience, then, when surfing for web-cam sites since when doing so you may encounter a much higher rate of "site not found" error messages.

Web-cam views usually fall into only a few categories. There are many feeder cams, showing from one feeder to a jungle gym set-up. There are also many nest cams, which focus almost exclusively on raptor nests. The cams are hidden in towers, on high-rise buildings, on bridges, and in other interesting locations. It should come as no surprise, then, that these cams film Peregrines more than any other raptor. Another large group of cam sites emphasize locations, such as a particular estuary, although it usually more difficult to see individual species on these cams. The majority of the sites I visited were set in U.S. locales, but there is a small group from other countries.

So, what can you see besides the streaming video? Well, it varies, but more and more sites are offering photo site lists, habitat information, feeder data, and other information designed to help the viewer put the film in a natural perspective.

One other caveat is in order. If you are not using an up-to-date browser you may have difficulty watching the film. Also some sites are java enabled and without the java you must manually refresh your browser now and then to see updates. Other sites may require a variety of plug-ins, such as Quick-Time or Flash. So, if you encounter viewing difficulties, check for any specifications that may be listed for an idea of how to fix the problem.

Although watching a bird web-cam won't replace birding in the field, the unique vantage points some cameras provide are a truly thrilling, and in some cases you may see really unique avian behavior or species (and no, you cannot count that Yellow-billed Hornbill you saw on the Africa cam!). As always, these URLs listed below will be placed on the MOS State Web Site to make your surfing experience easier. Click on the links icon on the home page and scroll down to the Web Cam section. So, until next time, go surf…

African Animal Cams	http://www.africam.com/
Bald Eagles Nesting	http://www.nu.com/eagles/eagles.htm
BirdFeeder Cam	http://www.dcboces.org/sufsd/nassau/vitek/index.htm
Blowing Rock, N.C. Cam	http://www.shop-nc.com/cam.htm
Canadian Peregrine Foundation	http://www.peregrine-foundation.ca/
Dunn Memorial Bridge Falcon Nest	http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/endspec/current.html
Eagle Cam	http://www.eaglewatch.com/liveeaglecam.htm
Eastman Kodak Falcon Cam	http://www.kodak.com/US/en/corp/features/birdcam2000/index.shtml
Elkstreet Web Cam	http://www.elkstreet.com/
ENSP Bird Cam	http://www.nspco.com/nspbird.htm
Esquimalt Lagoon Migratory Bird Sanctuary	http://www.victorialodging.com/webcam.victoria.htm
Falcon Cam	http://www.netreader.com/falcon/index.html
Falcon Fledgings	http://www.greenworkschannel.org/falcon/index.htm
Falcon Vision	http://www.transarc.com/Falcon/
Feeder Cam	http://www.wbu.com/feedercam_home.htm
Feeder Station Cam	http://207.115.221.60/jrwebcams/hbirdfeeder.html
Kestrels Linz	http://www.linz.at/falken/eindex.htm
Montreal Biodome Penguins	http://www.montrealcam.com/en-biodome.html
Necani Cam	http://www.orednet.org/~Esearep/Page12.htm
Nest-Cam	http://www.icehouse.net/erickw/nestcam/wwwnestcam.html
NestCam	http://home.gci.net/~bluffcam/
Owl Cam	http://www.owlcam.com
Penguin Cam at Sea World	http://www.seaworld.org/Penguins/penguincam.html
Peregrine Falcons: Belgium	http://www.electrabel.be/nl/col4/falcon.htm
Redberry Lake Migratory Bird Sanctuary	http://www.ecocanada.com/webcams/ewashec.htm
Seattle Bird Cam	http://www.seanet.com/~Ebillr/birds/birdcam_current.html
Wild Bird Cam	http://host.fptoday.com/debzone/

A Plethora of Conservation Notes!
...but First, A Letter

The Conservation Connection

Dear Members of MOS,

As you all know, this spring a huge oil spill occurred on the Patuxent River. The impacts on wildlife and wetlands were substantial. I was assigned to be one of the State's natural resources trustee representatives during this spill, and I spent many, many days in the emergency response activities.

May approached, and my boys asked if we were going to the MOS conference. They knew how much time I was spending on the oil spill, including weekends, but they wanted to go and were mightily disappointed when we couldn't. I regretted that we could not attend, but this was simply a case of first things first.

So it was with great surprise and much humility that I opened a package from MOS shortly after the conference that contained the MOS Distinguished Career Service Award. An accompanying letter from Norm told me how it was presented at the annual meeting.

I have not yet had the opportunity to thank MOS for this extraordinary honor, and I wanted to do so. I think back on the more than twenty years that I have served MOS in various capacities, especially as Conservation Committee Chair, and I have a great sense of gratitude and fulfillment. I know that I have made a difference in the conservation causes that we have espoused, and it is not because of my efforts, but the unflagging commitment of the members of MOS.

I am stepping down as Conservation Committee Chair, not because I want to, but because I need to. There are many emerging conservation issues for which I must have a different role at present due to the duties of my job. I can't be the outspoken advocate that MOS needs to represent our interests, but I hope you know, and I gather that you would expect, I will never be dispassionate about the conservation of birds and bird habitat.

I would like to extend my profound thanks to MOS for the many years that you let me serve you as Conservation Committee Chair. I did so with great pride, and I will continue to do so, no matter what title I may have.

Sincerely,
Rich Dolesh

Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) Update

by Maureen F. Harvey

September 21, 2000 was a great day for the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) in Washington, D.C. President Clinton's speech in the Rose Garden and the CARA rally on the Capitol steps had the same message: PASS CARA THIS YEAR! Unfortunately, another CARA-killing proposal was also under development in Congress that same day.

President Clinton urged the Senate to pass the bipartisan bill, known as CARA, before the close of the 106th Congress. This landmark bipartisan legislation provides the largest infusion of funds for conservation in US history, $44 billion over the next 15 years. Funds will go mostly to state and local wildlife, parks, coastal and other conservation programs. In some states this will almost double federal funding to states for wildlife conservation. CARA passed the House overwhelmingly in May by a 3:1 margin, was reported out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in July by a 13-7 vote, and now awaits full Senate action.

Earlier in September, the MD Teaming With Wildlife Coalition (representing about 300 MD organizations) sent letters to Senators Mikulski and Sarbanes asking them to sign on to a letter to the Senate leadership urging the scheduling of CARA for a Senate floor vote before the close of the 106th Congress. Coalitions from each state wrote similar letters to their Senators. As a result, 63 of the 100 Senators signed on, including our two from Maryland!

Back to September 21st...The International Assn. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) organized a rally on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. Over 300 CARA conservation and recreation leaders from almost every state in the nation were there. They represented an unprecedented coalition of more than 5,000 groups urging support of CARA. The rally featured Gaylord Perry, Baseball Hall-of-Famer and two-time winner of the Cy Young Award. It also featured "Challenger," a non-releasable trained bald eagle cared for by the American Eagle Foundation, that has flown the grounds of the Capitol in support of CARA. Numerous members of Congress, including CARA champions Congressmen Don Young (R-AK) and George Miller (D-CA), and Senator Bingaman (D-NM) spoke in support of CARA, urging final action this year.

Patrick Graham, President of IAFWA and Director of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, said "The most significant benefit of CARA to fish and wildlife conservation is that the State fish and wildlife agencies will finally be in a position to take preventative conservation measures to address declining species before they reach the endangered species status. It simply costs much less to conserve fish and wildlife species by responding to early warning signs of decline than it does to recover these species, if that's even biologically possible, once they have to be listed as endangered or threatened. Just as Social Security is a financial safety-net for Americans, conservation of our natural resources through CARA is a resource safety-net for this and future generations."

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The MOS Dateline
November 2000 through October 2001

November

15	Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Karen Morley
25	Deadline for Jan/Feb/Mar Meeting/Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman

December

1	Deadline for Jan/Feb ***Yellowthroat*** Submissions to Norm Saunders
1	MOS Grant Applications Due to David Brinker
9	State Board Meeting, Montgomery
15	Deadline to submit Fall (August to November) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz
16	Christmas Count Season Begins
31	Christmas Count Season Ends
31	Conference Pin Contest Entries Due to John Malcolm

January

15	Mid-Winter Count Season Begins
25	Deadline for Mar/Apr/May Meeting/Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman
31	Scholarship Applications Due to Jean Fry

February

1	Deadline for Mar/Apr ***Yellowthroat*** Submissions to Norm Saunders
1	State MOS Budget Submissions Due to Paul Zucker
15	Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Karen Morley
15	Mid-Winter Count Season Ends
TBA	MD/DC Records Committee Annual Meeting

March

10	State Board Meeting, Baltimore
15	Deadline to submit Winter (December to February) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz
25	Deadline for May/Jun/Jul/Aug Meeting/Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman
TBA	Irish Grove Spring Work Weekend

April

1	Deadline for May/Jun ***Yellowthroat*** Submissions to Norm Saunders
TBA	Carey Run Spring Work Weekend

May

12	May Count
12	2001 World Series of Birding (Support your Yellowthroats!)
15	Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Karen Morley

June

1	MOS Grant Applications Due to David Brinker
10	State Board Meeting, Kent
15	Deadline to submit Spring (March to May) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz

July

25	Deadline for Sept/Oct/Nov Meeting/Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman

August

1	Deadline for Sept/Oct ***Yellowthroat*** Submissions to Norm Saunders
10-12	Annual MOS Conference, Salisbury
11	Chapter & Committee Annual Reports due to MOS President
15	Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Karen Morley
15	Deadline to submit Summer (June & July) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz

September

1	Membership year commences—renew now!
9	State Board Meeting, location TBA
15	Fall Count
25	Deadline for Nov/Dec/Jan Meeting/Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman

October

1	Deadline for Nov/Dec ***Yellowthroat*** Submissions to Norm Saunders
26-27	Irish Grove Fall Work Weekend

A Correction to Fall Hawk Watching in Maryland
provided by Dave Weesner

Washington Monument State Park: An irregular, informal watch atop the monument which straddles South Mountain in Boonesboro. There are no daily counters this year—volunteers are needed daily during the week and as helpers on weekends. Located off Alt. Route 40, near Boonsboro, MD. Take I-70 to Frederick and go West on Alt. 40 to Monument Road. Take Monument Road to the park entrance. Follow the right fork about 1/2 mile into the park to the Monument Trail. The hawkwatch is located at the top of the tower, about a 1/4 mile walk uphill. For further information about the hawkwatch call Dave Weesner at 301-432-7718; to determine if the park is open, call park headquarters at 301-791-4767. The view from the stone tower is breathtaking. As its name implies, the tower is a monument to our first President. The view alone is worth the visit, but since the Cumberland Valley is a migatory bird flyway, the park offers excellent all around birdwatching opportunities. The Appalachian Trail winds through the park and passes near the base of the monument.

The 2001 MOS Conference Pin Design Contest
Rules and Guidelines

The MOS Conference Committee announces the 2001 MOS Conference Pin Design Contest.

Rules:

- The design shall include a bird and the phrases "MOS" and "2001."
- The bird featured must be appropriate for the 2001 conference site, Salisbury, Maryland.
- Submissions shall be rendered in full color.
- Submissions shall not be framed or matted.
- Write on the back of each entry the artist's name, phone number, and chapter affiliation; and identify the species.
- Do not put the artist's name anywhere on the front of the entry. (All references to the artist are covered before judging.)
- Artists may not use others' work, or copyrighted material.
- Artists may submit up to five designs for any one contest.
- Entrants must be members of MOS.

By entering the contest the artists agree that if their design wins it becomes the property of MOS, which has the right to use the design to promote the conference, and for other MOS promotional uses.

The deadline for entries is January 10, 2001.

Entries should be sent to: John Malcolm
10205 Kindly Court
Montgomery Village, MD 20886

Guidelines & Suggestions:

- Designs should be in the "final version," with the bird clearly depicted. Don't send a rough sketch with the expectation that the pin company will finish the artwork for you.
- Simple, uncluttered, bold designs work best. Remember, the finished pin will be less than two inches; small details and complicated backgrounds don't reduce well.
- The manufacturer has a limited color palette; artists should consider birds with "basic" colors. (Note the color of the "olive" back of the yellowthroat on the 1991 pin.)
- Avoid shading or small patches of color. The pins are cloisonné, and each color change is bordered by a brass line. (The background in the original design for 1994 was shaded from dark green to light green; but the pin company could only produce one shade.)
- Submissions should be on sturdy, white, unlined paper or Bristol, in any medium, and the image should be at least five inches across (but not larger than 8 X 10 inches).
- The shape of the pin doesn't matter; the manufacturer can produce any shape.
- Artists need not depict the entire bird (note the 1988 entry).

The contest judges are an impartial jury of birders and artists. No entrant can be a judge. Judges consider suitability of the species, and the expected attractiveness of the resultant pin. The judges' decision is final. The winning artist may be asked to make minor changes to accommodate the manufacturing process. All entries will be returned to the artists, except for the winning design, which becomes the property of MOS. Pictures of past contest winners can be seen at the MOS State Web Site: http://www.mdbirds.org

Call John Malcolm if you have any questions. He's at (301) 977-5788.

CHAPTER CHATTER

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Cumberland Times-News. The plaque will site the contributions of a man who has touched the lives of so many young people and raised the conservation awareness of an entire community. Contributions to the Hodgdon Trail may be sent to Charlotte Folk, 179 Mt. Pleasant St., Frostburg, MD 21532.

Talbot Members Delight in a Sandhill Crane Hooked on Dorchester Black Cherries — For about two weeks, beginning in late July and ending on August 12th, many area birders enjoyed the viewing of a Sandhill Crane on Hooper's Island. First word of the bird's presence came via a phone call from a Hooper's Island resident to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The resident wondered if anyone was interested in this strange bird. Interested indeed! Blackwater staff sent word to Levin Willey, who often volunteers at Blackwater and is a highly experienced birder. But Levin was at work, so his wife, Diane, rushed on down and became the first birder to confirm the report. Levin and Diane are members of the Talbot County Chapter who reside in Dorchester County. Levin proceeded down to see the bird as soon as he was available, and by then Les Roslund of the Talbot Chapter had also paid a visit. Subsequently, with full approval of the property owner, the presence of the bird was publicized via the internet, and many birders shared the viewing of a very tame and cooperative Sandhill Crane. After a couple of weeks, the local supply of black cherries from the property owner's tree was depleted. Then the bird bade farewell to its hosts and departed, leaving many pictures and memories behind. The property owners how have a metal replica of a crane in their yard as a reminder of their special visitor in the summer of 2000.

Anne Arundel Birder Enjoys the West Coast — Stan Arnold spent 3-1/2 weeks enjoying his first birding experience on the West Coast. He went with a target list of 82 species and managed to find 59, along with two others who hadn't made the list. He says he learned a few things: "(1) birding California is terrific; (2) birding British Columbia isn't so great, but the scenery is awesome;(3) August is a great time for finding pelagic rarities and shorebirds, but is awful for owls and passerines (sounds like home); (4) owls and passerines are very quiet in August; (5) all the juveniles make identifying new birds a bear in August." Stan found John Kemper's Birder's Guide to Northern California an excellent resource along with his ABA guide. He found ABA contacts very helpful. His five top birds were Salvin's Albatross, Short-tailed Shearwater, Ruff, Lawrence's Goldfinch, and Pinyon Jay. His five best birding locations were Klamath Falls, Oregon; Mono Lake, east of Yosemite National Park, California; Lassen National Park, California; Olympic National Park, Washington; and Fort Bragg, California. Any disappointments? Yes, the five biggest were Flammulated Owl, Great Gray Owl, Spotted Owl, Horned Puffin, and Trumpeter Swan.

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CHAPTER CHATTER

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Allegany Kicks Off the New Chapter Year with a Picnic — The annual Allegheny Bird Club picnic was held at Carey Run On Sept. 10th with 23 members in attendance. A beautiful day was enjoyed almost as much as the food! Member Gwen Brewer is on sabbatical from Frostburg State University: she is now in Columbia and will go on to Peru. Member Jim Paulis sighted an American Avocet at the Terminus of the C&O Canal in September and shared a photo to prove it!

Cecil Uses New MOS Display and Chapter Website — The Cecil Chapter had a table at the Yesteryears Town Festival in North East the week-end of September 30. They were especially pleased to have the use of the MOS display for this event and for their 27th Annual Meeting. A recent article in the Baltimore Sun highlighting the Elk Neck State Park in Cecil County mentioned the Turkey Point Hawk Watch, with resulting visitors from the Baltimore area. One family came from Ellicott City with a youngster toting binos and ID books. A birding family from New Jersey read about Turkey Point on the Cecil Bird Club website and visited specifically to camp and birdwatch in the park. They announced they were "very excited to be here."

Frederick Launches Owlnet — Project Owlnet, the banding operation at Lamb's Knoll on the border of Frederick and Washington counties, 15 minutes from Frederick, began in early October. Peak of migration usually falls at the end of October and the beginning of November. Last season netted 429 Sawwhets and three Screech Owls, including nine recoveries from other banding operations. Project Owlnet is an organization of owl migration researchers that covers much of the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states, inland to West Virginia, the Great Lakes region and parts of Canada. Visitors to the site are welcome, but arrangements must be made in advance. Parking is extremely limited and, due to the nature of banding, large groups are not encouraged. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Steve Huy at gabboon@aol.com or 301-371-4470 for information about visiting or volunteering. The Park Service has given permission to place a "port-a-john" at the site so, a donated one from October 1 through December 15 would be appreciated. Steve is currently building a web site which is now available at http://members.aol.com/ProjectOwlnet/default.htm and will eventually be at http://nedsmithcenter.org/projectowlnet/. Steve says a visit would make a great follow up to an afternoon of hawk watching at nearby Washington Monument State Park. Woodcock, grouse, and migrating thrushes, geese, and swans can often be heard.

Baltimoreans High As a Kite — May Count for the birders assigned to the Cylburn Arboretum and Lake Roland turned out to be a real adventure. At 12:30 p.m. Shirley Geddes reports that she, Josie Gray, Carol Schreter, and Keith Costley saw "two hawk-like birds flying over the mansion house at Cylburn. They were not flying fast, but tipping and twisting this way and that. We realized they were different...WOW! The backs on both were soft gray and one had faint barring on the tail. The heads were a whitish-pearl gray and contrasted with the back. The shape was falcon-like, but the size and color was wrong. Had to be Mississippi Kites. WOW! OH MY!" Checking with Phil Davis, chair of the Maryland/DC Records Committee, they learned that the kite was taken off the review list in February. This was a real first in Baltimore County and City and, of course, a new bird for Cylburn's list. Shirley concluded, "Birding is such fun."

Another Birder on High from Cecil — Leslie Fisher, Cecil Chapter president, recently spent a week in Canada visiting family, and was able to bird a little. Highlight was nesting Black Terns on a remote lake on the Bruce Peninsula in Ontario, close to her childhood stomping grounds. She also went on a very adventurous tree top canopy tour, a network of 17 connected boardwalks 60 foot up in old growth White Pines, on a secluded island in the 55,000 acre Haliburton Wildlife Reserve, featuring spectacular scenery. Leslie reports "I had visions of being eye-ball to eye-ball with northern resident warblers, but I had to content myself with the frustration of hearing Blackburnian Warblers, among others, singing close by and never seeing them due to a) it was a windy day and at least one hand was required to hang on to the swaying boardwalk; b) there was really not too much maneuvering for a better position on the narrow planks; and c) they were plain uncooperative. Still, a unique and enjoyable experience."

Harford Celebrates with an Annual Social — The Harford Club celebrated with its fourth "Summer Social" at the Anita Leight Estuary Center on July 7. Fifty-two people attended. Carole Vangrin and Diane Robertson and their spouses were worker bees. The annual awards were presented. Conservationist of the Year was won by Deidra DeRoia, a biologist at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, who found a nesting Henslow's Sparrow, successfully fought to preserve its habitat from scheduled mowing through the nesting season. Birder of the Year is Dave Powell, the club's new field trip coordinator. Dave confided one of the problems of his new position, "I think people were avoiding me at the social. I guess folks figured I'd ask them to lead a trip." The Distinguished Service award went to Joyce Gorsuch, the long-time treasurer. She was commended for conquering the computer learning curve and preparing wonderful and timely computer generated reports for the club.

MOS Officers in a Big Yellow Truck See the Pretty Birds — In August Karen Morley and Shiras Guion drove a truck full of some of Karen's mothers furniture from Highland in southern California to Baltimore. It is not easy to bird with a big yellow truck, but they did manage to find a few birds along the way. Shiras found a Allen's Hummingbird for a lifer and they both got a lifer with a Juniper Titmouse. Thanks to directions from Dave Harvey of Howard and Carroll, they successfully birded in Oklahoma City, finding Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and lots of herons.

Cecil Editor Turns in His Red Pencil — Ken Drier, long-time editor of the Cecil Chapter's newsletter, "Cecil Birdlife," has retired from that position because of increasing work and other responsibilities. The newsletter has been a particularly professional looking publication with lots of news, articles by and about members and birds, illustrations, and schedules. President Leslie Fisher noted Ken's excellent work with appreciation and gratitude and a deep understanding of his many responsibilities. She was very pleased that a new member, Candi Lee, stepped up to take over as editor, moving up from mailing. Candi's husband, Rick, has been program chair, and is now serving as Vice President as well.

Harford Steps Back in History — The Harford chapter conducted a hawkwatch at Steppingstone Farm Museum as part of an Outdoor Adventure Expo on September 16. The Expo offered free clinics on mountain bike riding, rock climbing, archery, kayaking, and flyfishing, along with the Bird Club's hawkwatch. Steppingstone Farm Museum is an area of Susquehanna State Park. A private foundation has leased the property and attempts to recreate 19th century farm life. The hawkwatch yielded Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered , American Kestrel, Northern Harriers, Black and Turkey Vultures, Broad-winged Hawk, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk.

Baltimore Bird Club Completes Year One of an Avian Monitoring Program — The Fort McHenry Wetlands Avian Monitoring Project completed its first year on Wednesday, August 16, 2000. The Baltimore Bird Club was challenged by the National Aquarium's conservation department to monitor bird activity in an artificially constructed wetland on the fort's shoreline. Volunteers have been counting the first Wednesday morning of each month

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from March through August. During the 113 hours and 45 minutes of observation by BBC members, 6180 birds were tallied, representing 120 species. This is an amazing number of species to be seen in a ten-acre wetland and represents about 30% of all the bird species recorded in the state of Maryland. The wetland seems to be so attractive because it is an oasis in an urban setting. An annotated checklist of the birds of the Fort McHenry wetland is in progress and will be printed in the summer of 2001. Volunteers or visitors interested in the wetlands project can contact Angie Lawrence at 410-576-1508 or alawrence@aqua.org/. Those interested in volunteering with the Baltimore Bird Club should contact Gail Frantz at 410-833-7135 or guineabird@aol.com/.

Caroline's Fall Count Highlights — The Caroline Chapter's fall bird count on September 16 yielded 118 species as compiled by Debby Bennett. Danny Poet reports that "some of the counters had a good day and some did not." Bill Scudders was one of those with a good day as he spotted 37 turkeys. Another highlight was an Eared Grebe counted by Danny himself. The grebe was first located on September 11 by Mark Hoffman. Danny checked it out on Tuesday, September 12, and was very pleased that it hung around for the count on Saturday.

Howard Chapter Has a New Address, New Information, and a New Look — The Howard Chapter has a new web address, http://www.howardbirds.org/. In addition to news and information on field trips, programs and other events, there are maps. Flowers and weeds of Howard County are not neglected. Information about butterflies and dragonflies of Howard County and the dragonflies of Maryland is available along with helpful links to other sites. The Field Checklist of Birds of Howard County is displayed in a new, user friendly format. For a paper copy of this checklist, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Jo Solem, 10617 Graeloch Rd., Laurel, MD 20723.

Cecil Chapter Recognizes Award Winners — The September 27 Cecil meeting featured the annual recognition awards. Joan Goodwin, winner of the Years of Service Award received a raptor T-shirt. An MOS cap went to Parke John as the Most Thankless-behind-scenes-dedicated Award winner, who is the field trip chair and May count coordinator, plus data collector for the midwinter count. Rick and Candi Lee received the Most Gung-ho-New Members Award. Rick is the incoming vice president, the program chair, and an active volunteer at the Turkey Point Hawk Watch while Candi is the newsletter editor and an exceptional volunteer. Both received MOS caps and instructions on how to have themselves cloned.

THE CONSERVATION CONNECTION

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While the rally was underway, the Senate-House Conference Committee on 2001 Appropriations for the Interior and Related Agencies was working on a proposal advanced by Congressman Norm Dicks (D-WA). His proposal would increase the FY 2001 appropriations for several agencies, mostly for land acquisition, and authorize (but not in any way guarantee) funding for $1.4 million for a long list of programs in the next 5 years. The appropriations committee each year would determine the amount for each program, making it no better than a hollow promise. It substitutes less than acceptable provisions for major parts of CARA including Title III, Wildlife; Title I, Impact Assistance and Coastal Conservation; Title IV, Urban Parks and Recreation, Title V, Historic Preservation, Title VII Conservation Easements and Title VIII Payment in Lieu of Taxes. Hopefully the major supporters of CARA will not be taken in by this proposal from appropriators who have opposed CARA.

TAKE ACTION NOW. CALL AND/OR WRITE SENATORS MIKULSKI AND SARBANES WITH THIS MESSAGE: "We want CARA passed this year. Please keep pressure on the Senate Leadership and White House to reach agreement on CARA, keep it intact, and move it forward for final passage." Their contact information is:

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, 709 Hart Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-4654

Senator Paul S. Sarbanes, 309 Hart Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-4524

PEPCO Seeks Permits to Open Douglas Point to Gravel Mine

by Maureen F. Harvey

PEPCO has entered into a contingent contract with a gravel company to sell land for a gravel mine at Douglas Point in Charles County. Douglas Point is the same land that Senator Sarbanes and Representative Hoyer were trying to acquire as part of a 5500-acre park in Charles County. The mining operation would occur on the edge of the Potomac River with most gravel being barged out of state.

The MOS Conservation Committee wrote to PEPCO and the Charles County Board of Appeals, and sent copies to Governor Glendening, Maryland Legislators, Charles County Commissioners, and several newspapers to oppose the proposed mining operation at Douglas Point. The MOS letter to the Charles County Board of Appeals follows:

The Maryland Ornithological Society
Conservation Committee

October 2, 2000

Charles County Board of Appeals
PO Box 2150
La Plata, MD 20646

Ref: Douglas Point Hearing - Docket # 1004

Dear Members of the Board of Appeals:

The Maryland Ornithological Society fosters interaction and exchange of information among people interested in wild birds to encourage the study and enjoyment of birds and the natural world. One of our missions is to encourage the protection and conservation of bird life and natural resources that support bird life. That is why we are writing to you about the disposition of PEPCO's Douglas Point property under contingent contract to a gravel mining operation.

We believe the plan to turn part of the Douglas Point Forest into a gravel pit is out of step with the needs of the citizens of Maryland and Charles County. The reasons this is a bad idea are extensive and touch upon economics, environmental issues, and esthetics. The living forests cleanse our air and water, and recharge our streams, provide jobs in recreation and boost local businesses patronized by outdoor enthusiasts, provide habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife, and wild areas that we treasure for their beauty and the spiritual lift we humans get by being close to nature.

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THE CONSERVATION CONNECTION

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Before gravel operations could begin, roads would be put in and standing timber would be felled. The value of the living forest is much greater than the money generated by logging. The US Forest Service estimates that National Forests contribute nearly $40 to the US economy for every dollar generated by logging and create nearly 30 times as many jobs. Consider the economic value of ecotourism. Charles County has some wonderful spots for wildlife viewing, but many interesting areas are unavailable to the public because they are on private land. Douglas Point has excellent potential to become a hot spot for outdoor enthusiasts who would spend money in area shops, restaurants, and motels, while enjoying a day trip or weekend visit. The area could be gently developed as a public day-use environmental study area with nature trails and possibly picnicking. It could be developed a little more to become a place where school kids and groups could come and stay, modeled after Charles County's very successful environmental study area on Nanjemoy Creek. Congress is presently working on passage of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act. This bill, when passed into law, will provide Maryland and all other states with funds for multiple purposes, including wildlife conservation, recreation, and education. Maryland's projected share for wildlife is $5 million annually. Charles County will want to plan local projects to be sure of a share of these funds. Areas for nature study and wildlife viewing would surely qualify.

A gravel pit at Douglas Point would be counter to the Maryland's promise to protect and improve the Bay and its tributaries. The health of our fisheries and the Chesapeake Bay depends on the conservation of its protective forests and wetlands. The newly signed Chesapeake Bay Agreement calls for the linking of contiguous forests, the creation of riparian forest buffer strips along more than 2000 miles of streams in the Bay's watershed, and a reduction in the rate of conversion of forests to development. Douglas Point provides a needed link in this protective corridor along the Potomac.

A gravel pit would damage the trees and plants that buffer and protect the Potomac River, fragment the wildlife habitat, change the groundwater in the region and potentially effect nearby wells, pollute the Potomac River with dust and run off, create noise pollution, light pollution, and air pollution from dust, and degrade property values. The proposed mining operation is totally out of line with what makes Charles County special to the members of the Maryland Ornithological Society. We think it is the wrong thing to do at Douglas Point and recommend that you vote to deny the request for permits.

Sincerely yours,
Maureen F. Harvey
Conservation Committee Chair

Talbot County Development Plan Threatens Mill Creek Sanctuary

by Les Roslund

The Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, an MOS property in Talbot County, is currently surrounded by the truly rural conditions of fields of corn and soybeans. That is about to change if plans for development of an adjacent property continue to succeed in attaining county approval. A project called Dolvin's Farm would put 69 homes onto one-acre lots right beside the sanctuary, with many of the lots being placed as close to the sanctuary as regulations will allow. Some of the lots are located between two major feeder tributaries that drain to Mill Creek, its 100-year flood plain, and the wetlands complex. The wetlands associated with Mill Creek are state designated Wetlands of Special Concern because of critically sensitive elements that occur there. The federally-listed Delmarva Fox Squirrel has been known to use the area and the adjacent forest continues to have the capacity to support this mammal. In addition there are at least six state-listed rare, threatened or endangered plants near Mill Creek that could be adversely affected if water conditions are degraded by the development. And, as birders know, this property supports numerous birds during migration, and is nesting grounds or wintering habitat for many others.

Local opposition to the development plan drew particular attention to the way that storm water run-off and sewage treatment for the new houses would threaten the quality of Mill Creek. An MOS letter of opposition was presented which spoke to numerous ways that the development would be injurious to the Mill Creek Sanctuary habitat and to the plants and animals that reside there. Others expressed concerns about the additional traffic and the impact on the village of Wye Mills, which would be doubled in size by the development.

However, the plan was approved at the Sketch Plan level in early September by a 5-0 vote of the Talbot County Planning and Zoning Commission. The developers were given no specific new requirements, but were advised to address all of the concerns expressed by the community as they proceed with the project. The next formal opportunity for community input will occur during the Planning and Zoning Commission review of the Preliminary Plan for the project. No date has been named for that hearing.

MOS participation in subsequent stages of this development will be essential. No one else will be advocating the protection of the sanctuary habitat. Your comments and suggestions for how this habitat may be protected are hereby solicited and are critically needed. If you have ideas on how to attain maximum habitat protection, or if you would like additional information on this matter, please contact me, Les Roslund, by e-mail at Lroslund@bluecrab.org, or by telephone at (410) 763-8169.

(The author is a member of Talbot County MOS Chapter and is the local point-of-contact for monitoring the progress of the Dolvin's Farm development plan.)

Minutes of the MOS Board Meeting
11 March 2000

President: Norm Saunders
Vice President: Karen Morley
Treasurer: Jeff Metter
Secretary: Kathy Neugebauer
Executive Secretary: Larry Fry
Past President: Bob Rineer

Atlas: Jane Coskren
Budget: Paul Zucker
Conference: Mike Callahan
Education: Paula Ecker
Environmental Fund for Maryland: Carol Jelich
Gifts: Sally Ann Waldschmidt
Investments: Mark Hoffman
Long-Range Planning: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
MD/DC Records: Phil Davis, Harvey Mudd
Nominations: Dave Harvey
Publications: Chan Robbins
Publicity: Fran Saunders
Sanctuary: Dotty Mumford
Scholarship: Jean Fry
Seasonal Counts: Bob Ringler

Allegany: not represented
Anne Arundel: Al Haury, Lawrence Zoller
Baltimore: Terry Ross
Caroline: not represented
Carroll: Maureen Harvey, Amy Hoffman
Cecil: Leslie Fisher, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
Frederick: not represented
Harford: Thomas Congersky
Howard: Mary-Jo Betts, Darius Ecker, Elayne Metter
Jug Bay: Mike Callahan
Kent: Gail Regester
Montgomery: Sam Freiberg, Linda Friedland, Janet Millenson, Lydia Schindler, Rick Sussman
Patuxent: Chan Robbins
Talbot: Wayne Bell
Tri-County: not represented
Washington: not represented

Opening & welcome: President Norm Saunders called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He thanked the Talbot Chapter for their hospitality and for the opportunity afforded to visit the City of Easton, a place all too often viewed as someplace to be gotten through to get to Ocean City. Wayne Bell, President of the Talbot Chapter gave a short welcoming talk to the Board, characterizing Talbot County as the "Gateway to Blackwater NWR." Larry Fry noted that the Anne Arundel Chapter would host the June Board Meeting but asked for volunteer hosts for the September, December, and following meetings.

Request for Funding: Dr. Peter Marra, one of the Principal Researchers at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, made a short presentation to the Board describing his newly conceived Project Nestwatch, a program that would attempt to combine the best of citizen science and scientific field work to learn more about locally nesting species. He noted that his funding requirements for the first year of operation of the program would be on the order of $5,000 and he was looking for funding opportunities. The Board felt his program sounded both exciting and useful and asked that he submit a formal funding request to the Gifts Committee. **[President's Note: Dr. Marra subsequently submitted that request but before the Gifts Committee had an opportunity to report to the Board, he was able to find private funding for the program and withdrew his request to MOS.]**

December 1999 Minutes: Norm Saunders noted that the December Board Meeting minutes had not been finished at the time the materials were mailed out for this meeting to the Board. He passed out copies at the meeting but noted that if anyone felt they didn't have adequate time to review them consideration could be put off. ***At least one member of the Board felt that he needed more time to review the minutes so Norm noted that they would be reviewed at the June meeting.***

Annual Meeting Input: ***Norm noted that once again he was asking for input from each of the Committee Chairs for the Annual Meeting presentation. He added that anyone who wanted to speak about their Committee activities at the meeting needed to let him know so he could work them effectively into the agenda. He further noted that the formal annual reports from Chapters and Committees for the 1999-2000 membership year were due to him by the day of the Annual Meeting.***

2000-2001 Budget: Paul Zucker, Chair of the Budget Committee, passed out copies of the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. **The Board discussed the various components of the proposal then a member moved that the Budget be accepted as submitted. The motion was seconded and approved.** The Budget is included herein as Appendix A.

Nominations: Dave Harvey, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that for the 2000-2001 membership year Karen Morley was the nominee for President, Paul Zucker for Vice-President, Shiras Guion for Treasurer, and Kathy Neugebauer for Secretary. He reminded the Board that the membership would vote on these and any other nominees at the Annual Meeting in Hagerstown. One Board Member asked if there was any provision for those not attending the Annual Conference to vote on the officers. Past-President Bob Rineer pointed out that the election of Officers was spelled out carefully in the Bylaws of the organization and that document allowed for no absentee voting.

Bylaws Change Request: In Tom Loomis's absence, Norm Saunders summarized for the Board several changes requested by the MD/DC Records Committee clarifying the method by which members were selected for this Committee—namely that members of the Records Committee are elected by the Committee itself to overlapping three-year terms while the Chair of the Committee is appointed by the President of MOS. The point was to bring the Bylaws and the Manual of Operations into line with current practices of the Committee. **The proposed changes for both documents were approved.** Norm Saunders noted that there would not be time to publish the proposed Bylaws change in the Yellowthroat for the number of days in advance of the Annual Meeting normally required by the Bylaws. **A member of the Board moved that the normal advance period be waived for**

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MARCH BOARD MEETING

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this proposed change, allowing the matter to be voted on by the entire membership at the May Annual Meeting. That motion was seconded and approved. [**President's Note:** the proposed changes to the Bylaws were approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting in Hagerstown on 20 May 2000.]

Conference Report: Mike Callahan reported that the 2001 conference is tentatively expected to be held at Salisbury State University, probably in August of 2001. He went on to brief the Board on last-minute developments regarding the Hagerstown Conference. He noted that Sybil Williams would be unable to handle the Silent Auction and Raffle this year in light of the impending festivities surrounding her mother's 90th birthday. Mike went on to say that Janelle Dietrich of the Jug Bay Chapter had volunteered to fill the gap in this regard. Karen Morley described the items she planned to have for sale at this year's conference, including hats, t-shirts, polo shirts, mugs, and other MOS promotional items.

MOS Nature Store: Fran Saunders, MOS Website Coordinator, presented information on the MOS Nature Store which had recently been made available on the MOS website. MOS is now able to offer this service by becoming an affiliate of birding.com, a site which acts as the supplier/credit card accepter/shipper for MOS. Norm Saunders noted that setting this up had not cost MOS any money at all nor was MOS in any way contractually obligated to birding.com. A somewhat heated discussion ensued, the central tenet being that the President had over-stepped his authority in authorizing the arrangement. Norm Saunders reiterated that the arrangement was at no cost to MOS, that no contractual obligations had been entered into, and that the store could be discontinued at any time if that was the wish of the Board. He went on to say that he had been acting in the best interests of the membership and had authorized the site to be set up in order for Board Members to see what it looked like prior to the Board Meeting. One Board Member raised the question of how such sales activity might potentially affect the tax-exempt status of the MOS. Norm responded that he didn't think it would be an issue but he asked Vice-President Karen Morley if she would look into this question prior to the June Board Meeting. **At this point the motion was made to keep the MOS Nature Store online at least until the report from Karen Morley at the June Board Meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board.**

MOS ISBN Numbers: Janet Millenson noted that she had been researching the idea of getting a set of International Standard Book Numbers (ISBN) for use on MOS publications. She noted that many bookstores would not carry a publication unless it had an ISBN number and that the numbers were assigned free of charge to non-profit organizations. She noted that she had been working with Norm Saunders to gather the necessary documentation in order to request the numbers and would report back to the Board on progress at the June Board Meeting.

CARA Status: Maureen Harvey, representing MOS on the Teaming With Wildlife Committee, reported on the Capital Hill Rally held in support of the Conservation and Restoration Act (CARA) which had taken place in early March. Maureen expressed high hopes for the bill's speedy passage but urged every Chapter to ask their members to contact their elected Representatives and Senators to support the bill when it came up for a vote later in the summer.

Display Board/MOS Promotional Flyer: Fran Saunders, Publicity Committee Chair, noted that the display board was in the final stages of preparation by Don Culbertson of the Baltimore Chapter and would be shown off, along with the MOS banner, at the Hagerstown Conference in May. She passed around review versions of a proposed MOS flyer for the Board to look over and accepted several suggested edit changes. **The motion was made to go ahead and have the flyer printed up, subject to the proposed edits, and this motion was seconded and approved.**

Sanctuary Issues: Norm Saunders pointed out the report on the buildings inspection at Carey Run and Irish Grove which had been completed by Mike Knott and included in the packet of Board Meeting preparatory material. He asked that any further questions regarding the condition of the MOS buildings at these two sanctuaries be referred to him so he could take them up with Mr. Knott. He noted that he was very pleased with the result of the inspections and felt that as a result, the Board was in a much better position to evaluate future budget requests on the part of the Sanctuary Committee. Dotty Mumford, Sanctuary Chair, agreed with Norm that the lists were as complete as she had ever seen regarding the cataloging of needed projects at the two largest sanctuaries of MOS and that she looked forward to the challenge of trying to take care of all the items at upcoming workdays. To that end, Dotty noted the dates of the Spring workdays at both the sanctuaries and asked for the Chapters to urge their members to volunteer.

Recognizing that Norm Saunders and Dotty Mumford were unable to come to a satisfactory agreement with regard to the form a memorial to Ed Unger should take, the Board was invited to add their thoughts to the discussion. After going around in circles about wood vs. plastic as a suitable material for a memorial bench, Dotty suggested that perhaps a memorial grove of trees might be a more suitable and lasting tribute to Ed, the man considered by many to be the father of the MOS sanctuary system. **The Board, sensing victory in the air, quickly "so moved," seconded, and approved Dotty's suggestion.** Finally, Dotty noted that she and Norm Saunders were working together on the final formatting of the long-awaited Sanctuary Guide and their hope was to have this completed by the end of the calendar year.

Gifts Committee Report: Sally Ann Waldschmidt, Chair of the Gifts Committee, reported first on proposed guidelines her Committee had put together for applying for monies from the gift fund. She passed out a preliminary version of the guidelines but noted that they were still under discussion at the committee level and would be presented in final form for the discussion of the Board at a later meeting. Sally Ann then went on to note that another major project of the Committee was to prepare a history, over at least the past ten years, of gifts to the organization—where they had come from and how they had been used, if they had been used. This too will be presented at a later Board meeting. She then noted that her committee had not yet received a formal application from Marshall Iliff regarding his request to the Board for a grant in support of his work-in-progress on a birding guide to the State of Maryland. [**President's Note:** Marshall Iliff

(continued at top of next page)

MOS 2000 MD/DC LOCALITY LIST REPORTING FORM

Report List Totals as of 12/31/2000

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:
Address:
City: County:
State: Zip: Email:
Phones: (day): ( ) (evening): ( )

II. STATE/COUNTY LIFE AND 2000 LISTS

Locality List	Max/50%	Life	2000	Locality List	Max/50%	Life	2000
Maryland State	416/208			District of Columbia	312/156		
MD Yard List*	-			DC Yard List*	-		
Allegany County	282/141			Howard County	290/145		
Anne Arundel County	330/165			Kent County	300/150		
Baltimore City/County	333/167			Montgomery County	311/156		
Calvert County	303/152			Prince George's County	316/158		
Caroline County	292/146			Queen Anne's County	302/151		
Carroll County	277/139			St. Mary's County	317/159		
Cecil County	293/147			Somerset County	303/152		
Charles County	283/142			Talbot County	311/156		
Dorchester County	316/158			Washington County	260/130		
Frederick County	289/145			Wicomico County	291/146		
Garrett County	275/138			Worcester County	372/186		
Harford County	297/149			All-County List	226/---		

* **Yard List Information**:
County: _____
Location: Home: _____ Work: _____ Other? (specify): _____
Brief Description: (size, habitat, etc):

III. ANNUAL ALL-TIME HIGH LISTS (for previous years)

Locality List	Year	#	Locality List	Year	#

(Please use one form per person)

2000 MARYLAND/DC LOCALITY LIST COMPILATION

Each year, the MOS compiles and publishes totals from member's state and local bird lists. Forms for submitting 1999 locality lists are provided in this issue of the ***Maryland Yellowthroat***. You are invited to submit your totals for any of the following list categories:

STATE/COUNTY CUMULATIVE LISTS: This category is for your "lifetime" species totals identified anywhere in the state of Maryland, DC, or within any of the 23 Maryland counties. You may submit totals for any of these localities. Due to space limitations, please only submit totals which exceed 50% of the "maximum" number for each locality. The form contains the latest maximums and the 50% threshold for each locality.

STATE/COUNTY 2000 ANNUAL LISTS: This category is for total species identified only in 2000 for the same localities as above. These totals may be reported at any threshold.

"YARD" LIST: This category is for cumulative yard list totals, and 2000 totals. You may count any species you have identified while in your "yard" (that is, your property contiguous to your home). "Flyovers" and other birds identified from your yard (even if they were not in your yard) also count. Additional information is requested on your "yard".

"ALL-COUNTY" LIST: This category is for counting the number of species you have identified in each of the 23 Maryland counties. For example, if you have identified a Northern Mockingbird, an American Crow, a Downy Woodpecker and a Red-tailed Hawk in each of the 23 Maryland counties, your list total would be "4".

"ALL-TIME HIGH" ANNUAL LISTS: This category is used to track all-time high annual lists from the current and previous years. Annual prior year totals for the various reporting localities may be submitted. For Maryland, submitted totals should equal or exceed 286 (70% of the "maximum possible" number). For individual counties, totals submitted from previous years should exceed either 50% of the "maximum possible" or exceed one of the top totals previously published for that county. See the May/June 2000 issue of the ***Maryland Yellowthroat*** for previously published totals.

Members' totals that have not been updated within the previous five years will be dropped from the database.

Questions ??? Contact Phil Davis at PDavis@ix.netcom.com or (301) 261-0184.

Please return the form BEFORE January 20, 2001 to:

Phil Davis
2549 Vale Court
Davidsonville, MD 21035

We hope that all who have participated will do so again, and that others will join in, especially those from localities which are currently less than well represented. If you have any comments, thoughts or anecdotes, please include them. Specifics on your yard habitat and size will also be of interest if your yard list total is especially high. If you have any other categories of Maryland bird lists that are appropriate (for example, all-time or 2000 state/county "Big Day" totals), send them in. We'd like to hear from you.

MARCH BOARD MEETING

(continued from previous page)

submitted the requested proposal the week following the March Board meeting and it is now in the hands of the Gifts Committee.] Finally, Sally Ann noted that the Gifts Committee had received another detailed proposal from Darius Ecker of the Howard Chapter requesting gift money support for his proposed guide to birding in Maryland. An again heated discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of the Gifts Committee handling preliminary requests for financial support before those requests had been placed formally before the Board as a whole. **The Board agreed to send both the Iliff and the Ecker proposal to the Publications Committee for their review and recommendations, to be presented to the Board at a later date.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norm Saunders, President

NOTE: Board actions are shown in bold and items which require action are printed in bold italic type.

Appendix A: Budget of the Maryland Ornithological Society 2000-2001 and 1999-2000

Item	2000-2001	1999-2000
Operating Fund:		
Income: (a)		
Dues	17,000.00	17,500.00
Interest, Dividends	7,000.00	2,000.00
Conference (b)	2,000.00	
Environmental Fund of Md	2,000.00	4,000.00
MOS Sales (c)	2,000.00	
World Series of Birding	4,000.00	3,500.00
Income, miscellaneous (d)	500.00	1,000.00
Total Oper. Fund Income	**34,500.00**	**28,000.00**
Expenses:		
Publications (e)		
Maryland Birdlife		
Printing	6,000.00	6,000.00
Postage	1,400.00	1,400.00
Maryland Yellowthroat		
Printing	7,000.00	7,000.00
Postage	1,400.00	1,400.00
MOS Website	150.00	475.00
Sanctuary Guide (f)	2,000.00	
Total publications	**17,950.00**	**16,275.00**
Administrative and General		
President's Expenses	100.00	600.00
Vice President's Expenses	50.00	50.00
Treasurer's Expenses	150.00	150.00
Secretary's Expenses	50.00	100.00
Executive Secretary's Stipend	2,400.00	2,400.00
Affiliations and Memberships	325.00	325.00
Awards	300.00	200.00
Bulk Storage Facility	2,000.00	2,000.00
EFM Funded Projects (g)	2,000.00	
Liability Insurance	2,300.00	2,200.00
Membership Data Base	1,000.00	1,000.00
MOS Sales (h) (i)	3,700.00	
MOS Telephone	700.00	600.00
Nest Records Project (j)	500.00	
Office Supplies	500.00	150.00
Postage (k)	1,200.00	1,100.00
Printing and Duplication (l)	1,000.00	250.00
Promotional Items (h)	0.00	400.00
World Series of Birding Expenses	2,000.00	1,000.00
WSB Funded Projects (g)	2,000.00	
Contingencies	500.00	500.00
Appraisal of Sanctuaries (m)	5,000.00	
Total Administrative and General	**27,775.00**	**13,025.00**
Committee-related Expenses:		
Atlas Committee	25.00	25.00
Audit Committee	25.00	25.00
Budget Committee	25.00	25.00
Bylaws Committee	25.00	25.00
Conference Committee	25.00	25.00
Conservation Committee	50.00	25.00
Education Committee	50.00	850.00
Environmental Fund Liaison	25.00	25.00
Gifts Committee	50.00	25.00
Investments Committee	25.00	25.00
Library Committee	250.00	250.00
Long-range Planning Committee	25.00	25.00
Nominating Committee	25.00	25.00
Publications Committee	25.00	25.00
Publicity Committee (n)	100.00	100.00
Records Committee	250.00	100.00
Research Committee	25.00	525.00
Sanctuary Committee	50.00	50.00
Scholarship Committee	200.00	1,000.00
Seasonal Counts Committee	50.00	50.00
Speakers' Bureau (o)	0.00	25.00
Total Committee-related Expenses	**1,325.00**	**3,250.00**
Total Operating Expenses	**47,050.00**	**32,550.00**
Special Funds:		
Atlas Fund		
Income	1,000.00	1,000.00
Expenses	0.00	100.00
Conference Fund (p)		
Income from 1999 Conference		22,500.00
Expenses for 1999 Conference		18,500.00
Income from 2000 Conference	22,000.00	
Expenses for 2000 Conference	20,000.00	
Expenses for 2001 Conference	1,000.00	
Education Fund		
Income	2,500.00	1,700.00
Expenses (Grants)	2,500.00	1,700.00
Research Fund		
Income		
Investment Income	2,500.00	3,000.00
Carryover from Previous Years (q)		

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MARCH BOARD MEETING

(continued from previous page)

Total Research Income	2,500.00	3,000.00
Expenses		
Grants	2,500.00	3,000.00
Total Research Expenses	2,500.00	3,000.00
Sanctuary Fund		
Income		
Life Memberships	400.00	400.00
Contributions	200.00	200.00
Investments	6,000.00	5,500.00
Sales—Sanctuary Signs	100.00	100.00
Use Fees	300.00	100.00
Total Sanctuary Income	7,000.00	6,300.00
Expenses		
Carey Run	1,500.00	2,500.00
Irish Grove	5,000.00	5,000.00
Contingencies	500.00	1,000.00
Erosion Control at Carey Run	(r)1,000.00	
Tide Gate at Irish Grove (s)	2,000.00	
Total Sanctuary Expenses	10,000.00	8,500.00
Scholarship Fund		
Income		
Contributions	50.00	100.00
Orville Crowder Scholarship (WNA)	850.00	850.00
Gibson/Mendenhall Scholarship	850.00	850.00
Interest and Investment Income	5,500.00	4,000.00
Total Scholarship Income	7,250.00	5,800.00
Expenses		
MOS Scholarships	5,550.00	4,000.00
Orville Crowder Scholarship (WNA)	850.00	850.00
Gibson/Mendenhall Scholarship	850.00	850.00
Total Scholarship Expenses	7,250.00	5,700.00

Notes to Maryland Ornithological Society 2000-2001 Budget

(a) Transfers from the Sanctuary Fund to support the costs of servicing life memberships have been eliminated. The Operating Fund will sustain all the costs of member services.

(b) Net conference income from the 2000 conference. See conference fund below.

(c) MOS sales is a new category covering sale of books, checklists, and other items the Society may offer for sale (excepting sanctuary signs).

(d) Miscellaneous income includes income from other sources apart from sales, such as funds received from chapters to cover some of the cost of mail permits.

(e) The costs for mailing labels for *Birdlife* and the *Yellowthroat* are now included with Membership Database under Office Expense.

(f) Special one-time allocation for the publication of this important document.

(g) The EFM and WSB profits are available for special projects. Application needs to be made to the gifts committee.

(h) This new category includes the costs of producing items for sale by MOS, such as publicity gadgets, T-shirts, checklists, and the yellow book. It also includes the costs of producing those items which are given away for publicity. The previous category of Promotional Items is absorbed here.

(i) There is a one-time allocation of $3500 included here for the production of an inventory of these items. The budget also includes $150 for MOS items in the e-store and $50 for checklists and the yellow book.

(j) This allocation is for the xeroxing of the nest record cards. Once xeroxed, the cards can be circulated to volunteers who will help enter the information into an electronic database.

(k) This category now includes the cost of bulk mailing permits.

(l) This category includes costs for printing publicity brochures and the gift solicitation brochure.

(m) Special one-time allocation.

(n) Printing and duplicating costs for the brochure have been included as a general office expense, see note (l).

(o) The speaker's bureau is discontinued. The information will appear on the MOS website and will be the responsibility of the publicity committee.

(p) This category shows total conference income and expenses. The figures for the previous year's conference are totals which extend over more than one fiscal year. The "budget" for this year's conference is the estimated income and expense, which also extends over more than one year. The entry for next year's conference is the anticipated deposit to be made during the upcoming budget year.

(q) Contains the unspent portion of previous income plus the unspent portion of last year's $500 allocation for mist net replacement.

(r) Special one-time allocation. This appeared in last year's budget but was not spent.

(s) Special one-time allocation.

Minutes of the MOS Board Meeting
10 June 2000

President: Norm Saunders
Vice President: Karen Morley
Treasurer: Jeff Metter
Executive Secretary: Larry Fry

Atlas: Jane Coskren
Audit: Gerald Cotton
Budget: Paul Zucker
Cavity Nesting: Mark Johnson
Conference: Mike Callahan
Long-Range Planning: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
Nominations: Dave Harvey
Publicity: Fran Saunders
Research: Dave Brinker
Sanctuary: Dotty Mumford
Scholarship: Jean Fry
Seasonal Counts: Bob Ringler

Allegany: not represented
Anne Arundel: Emily Joyce, Lawrence Zoller
Baltimore: Helene Gardel
Caroline: not represented
Carroll: Maureen Harvey
Cecil: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
Frederick: not represented
Harford: Thomas Congersky
Howard: Mary-Jo Betts, Shiras Guion, Elayne Metter
Jug Bay: Mike Callahan
Kent: not represented
Montgomery: Mike Bowen, Janet Millenson, Rick Sussman
Patuxent: not represented
Talbot: not represented
Tri-County: not represented
Washington: Ann Mitchell

Opening & welcome: President Norm Saunders called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He thanked the Anne Arundel Chapter, Dotty Mumford, and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) for providing the meeting site and refreshments. He then introduced Peter Marra, one of the principal researchers at SERC, who gave the Board a short introduction to the site and to the research programs currently underway at SERC. Dr. Marra invited everyone to bird around the trails after the meeting and to contact him in the future if they wished to arrange birding trips to the area.

Resignations: Norm Saunders announced that Secretary Kathy Neugebauer had tendered her resignation effective immediately due to pressing family obligations. He thanked her for her work as Secretary over the past two years and then went on to note that he and Karen Morley had tentatively found a replacement Secretary, Janet Shields of Washington County. Pending her final indication of willingness, her nomination will most likely be put before the Board at the September meeting. Norm Saunders also noted that Gerald Cotton, long-time chair of the Audit Committee, had submitted his resignation.

December 1999 Minutes: In looking over the minutes from the December 1999 Board Meeting, one Board member asked for a wording change in the section regarding Board approval of Marshall Iliff's request for a grant from MOS. Another Board member asked that a line regarding the involvement of Cornell Labs in the Nest Record Program be dropped as it was essentially inaccurate. **No other suggested changes were forthcoming and a motion was made to accept the December Minutes as amended. The Motion was seconded and approved.**

Annual Reports Due: Norm Saunders noted that he had received 1999-2000 annual reports from Anne Arundel, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Jug Bay, Kent, Montgomery, and Washington Chapters. Additionally, he has received reports from the Audit, Budget, Long-Range Planning, Publicity, and Scholarship Committees. ***All Chapter and Committee reports are due now.***

MOS Nature Store: Several issues arose as a result of the discussion of the MOS on-line nature store at the March Board Meeting. The first of these had to do with the potential impact such a retail operation might have on MOS's tax-exempt status. Karen Morley researched the issue and reported to the Board, based on her reading of IRS guidelines, that even though an organization is recognized as tax exempt, it still may be liable for tax on its unrelated business income. Unrelated business income is income from a trade or business, regularly carried on, that is not substantially related to the performance by the organization of its exempt purpose or function except that the organization needs the profits derived from this activity. Thus it would appear that as long as the activities that generate the income contribute "importantly" to MOS purposes, we would not need to pay tax on the income. In addition, there are some specific exclusions to unrelated business income: First, any trade or business is excluded in which substantially all the work is performed for the organization by volunteer labor — without compensation. Second, any trade or business is excluded that is carried on by an organization primarily for the convenience of its members. Thus, as long as MOS is primarily providing a service to its membership and most of the work is done by volunteers without compensation, MOS would fall under both of these exclusions, and we would not have to pay Federal tax on our sales. The Board appeared to be satisfied on this particular concern.

The Montgomery Chapter raised several issues with regard to the nature store:

1) Is it advisable for MOS to endorse a single supplier of birding merchandise or should MOS also provide links to sites such as the American Birding Association or other on-line retailers of nature materials? Norm Saunders replied that this was indicative of a basic misunderstanding about the role played by the birding.com site used by MOS. He noted that birding.com was filling the role of supplier to MOS and it was MOS itself who was setting prices and selling merchandise to its members. He noted the informational material on the MOS nature store which had been enclosed with the June Board Meeting Announcements for a further explanation of the relationship between MOS and birding.com (appended to these minutes as Appendix A). Several other Board members agreed that MOS was the seller and

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JUNE BOARD MEETING

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said that they felt the current arrangement of the website was perfectly adequate.

2) Is it advisable for the MOS President to take such responsibilities upon himself without first seeking the authorization of the Board of Directors? Norm Saunders replied that the opportunity made itself known to him between the December and the March Board Meetings. He noted that he wanted to have the nature store online prior to the March Board Meeting in order for Board members to have an opportunity to look the site over before the Board Meeting. He further noted that he had not financially obligated the MOS in any way and that he had entered into no relationships with birding.com that could not be severed in a matter of minutes. Because of these facts, Norm Saunders noted that his actions did not require the approval of the Board. Several Board members concurred with his interpretation.

The following points were also raised by individuals:

3) Is it advisable for MOS to be providing this service to the members at all? Mr. Saunders noted that this was a decision for the Board as a whole and that he would be happy to go along with whatever decision the Board made in this regard. None of the other present Board Members suggested that the MOS should not be providing this service to members.

4) The MOS is setting prices so low that we risk upsetting retail stores in Maryland. Mr. Saunders stated that his interest was to serve the membership in the best way possible. Other Board members agreed that what other retailers felt about the MOS pricing policies should not be a concern of ours. Mr. Saunders further noted that he had discussed the issue of MOS setting up an online nature store with Mike Nelson, Executive Director of the Audubon Naturalist Society, an organization which itself maintains a presence as an affiliate of birding.com. Norm stated that the relationship between MOS and ANS has always been a cordial one, one which recognizes the fact that both organizations are partners in conservation issues. Mike Nelson expressed no reservations whatsoever about the MOS nature store.

While all of these points engendered lively discussion amongst the Board members, the only sense that came of it all was that the Board should revisit the issue in a year or so to see how the on-line store was doing. Mr. Saunders agreed, noting that indeed any activity of the MOS Board should be subject to periodic review and he welcomed such an oversight of all the activities of the Board of Directors.

MOS 5-Year Plan: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee, took the floor at this point to announce plans her committee had made to follow up on the formulation last year of a set of MOS goals (available at the MOS web site). She noted that each committee would be asked to formulate a statement regarding where they currently stood with regard to those organizational goals and including a 2-year and a 5-year plan for attaining those goals where they aren't currently being met. She noted that the Publicity Committee had agreed to act as a guinea pig to provide the necessary analysis as an example for other committees. Some skepticism was expressed regarding the desirability or utility of asking some of the committees for more output. Norm Saunders reminded the Board that Joanne Solem, while Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee, had carried out an opinion poll of the membership which had identified more than a few problems as perceived by the members. He further noted that the Long-Range Planning Committee was simply trying to address these and other problems now before they began to hurt the organization. Karen Morley stated that indeed some of the Committee Chairs may be overworked now and some Committees may not be doing anything vaguely resembling their mission statement as noted in the Manual of Operations. In her opinion, any sort of organizational self-examination was a good thing. **Marcia noted that since this initiative of her committee would affect all of the Committees making up the Board of Directors, she asked that the Board approve her preliminary plans subject to periodic reevaluation and reformulation of the long-term planning process. Such a motion was made, seconded, and approved by the Board.**

MOS Membership Levels: President Norm Saunders noted that memberships, which had been declining at an alarming rate during his two years as vice-president, appear to have leveled out, at least in terms of the number of families receiving the MD Yellowthroat, at about 1,700 families. He attributed this to active and successful membership-building programs that are being carried out by a number of Chapters and by efforts of the Chapters to keep existing members from dropping their memberships. Norm congratulated all of the chapters on a job well done!

Bylaws and Manual of Operations: Norm noted that both of these documents are up-to-date and available on the MOS website. Further, he noted that they would be mailed to all Board members with the announcement of the September Board meeting. He urged the Board to read these documents carefully as they define the organization and how it operates in very explicit terms and he further urged the Board to continue to modify these documents in the future to ensure that they accurately reflect the organization.

MOS Conference: Mike Callahan reported on the general satisfaction of attendees with the Hagerstown Conference despite the rainy weather. The Silent Auction and the Raffle, so ably run this year by Janelle Dietrich, raised over $2,200, which will go to the Scales & Tails raptor rehabilitation organization to build raptor flight cages at Greenbrier State Park in Washington County. He further noted that the 2001 conference will likely be held at Salisbury State University in Salisbury, either in late July or early August of 2001. Karen Morley reported on the very successful sales of hats, mugs, decals, polo shirts, and convention t-shirts at the conference.

WSB 2000: Norm Saunders, unofficial team manager, reported that the MD Yellowthroats saw a total of 180 species in Cape May County and ended in a tie with Michael O'Brien's ABA Youth Birding Team for most species seen in a single county in the 2000 World Series of Birding. Pledges this year amount to approximately $2,800. If all of these pledges are collected, the MOS World Series team will have grossed almost $10,000 in donations over the three years of their existence. Norm noted that his ongoing search for a corporate sponsor was again unsuccessful but that he was prepared to continue the search if the MOS organization was willing to continue fielding a team. ***He prom-***

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JUNE BOARD MEETING

(continued from previous page)

ised a final report by the September Board Meeting.

Edna Bowers Memorial Donation: MOS received a $50 donation in memory of Edna Bowers. Norm wrote a thank-you letter to the family making the donation and asked for further information about Edna and her relationship with MOS. ***In the meantime, if anyone else has memories of Edna Bower, please share them with a piece for the Yellowthroat.***

Old Business: Norm noted that a revised and updated Speaker's List had been put together by Fran Saunders and Al Haury and would be mailed to each of the Chapter Presidents this summer. Additionally it will be available on the MOS website.

The Publicity Committee noted that four press releases had been generated so far this year, copies of which are available on the MOS web site.

A new 2000 membership listing has been generated and is available to Committee Chairs and other Board Members on request to the Executive Secretary, Larry Fry.

Jane Coskren, Chair of the Atlas Committee, noted that negotiations between MOS and the Montgomery County government regarding Montgomery County's planned startup of a new breeding bird atlas data gathering project in the 2000-2004 period had been successfully completed. The habitat-based part of the proposed study will go on as scheduled but Montgomery County has agreed to delay the atlas data gathering to correspond with the state-wide efforts which are expected to begin either in 2002 or 2003.

Dotty Mumford, Sanctuary Chair, noted that there were two successful spring workdays, one at Carey Run and the other at Irish Grove. Further, she noted that the lists of necessary repairs prepared for MOS by Mike Knott had been shared out to those responsible for each of the two sanctuaries, prioritized, and a long list of volunteer projects compiled for later workdays. She further noted that the tide gate project at Irish Grove will likely be completed on a contract basis this summer.

Janet Millenson noted that she had finally gotten all the information necessary to assign ISBN's to various MOS publications. These numbers can be assigned both to existing and new publications and are available free of charge to either the State organization or the various chapters. Contact Janet for more information.

Mark Johnson told the Board that he had begun work on compiling the nest record cards at Patuxent into a computerized data base and would soon be contacting the many volunteers who had come forward to help with that data entry project. He reiterated his desire to change the name of the Cavity Nesting Committee to the Nest Record Committee and to transform it from a provisional to a standing committee and promised that he would submit the necessary documentation to the September Board meeting for consideration.

Norm Saunders noted that the MOS display board, the MOS banner, and MOS promotional flyers had all been completed and displayed at the Hagerstown 2000 conference. He further noted that the board and banner would be displayed at the September Board Meeting and henceforth would be stored in the MOS storage facility and would be available to any of the chapters by contacting the Executive Secretary. ***He reminded the Chapters that the promotional flyers had a box on the back to be filled in with Chapter contact information and suggested that each Chapter might wish to purchase a stamp for this purpose over the summer.***

New Business: Mike Bowen, President of the Montgomery Chapter, noted that the Adventure Sanctuary banding program, which had been discontinued for the past six or seven years, will be reinstated this year in order to study the breeding relationships within the sanctuary. This is unlike the banding program carried out by the Donnalds there for many, many years, which was primarily a study of migration patterns through the sanctuary. The mist nets that had been used by the Donnalds have too large a mesh to be used in the breeding bird studies and the Montgomery County Chapter is requesting that MOS provide the $600 to $800 necessary to purchase the 6-8 mist nets required. Dotty Mumford noted that Adventure is one of our Affiliate Sanctuaries and she had enough money in her contingency allowance to cover the cost of the nets. **After some discussion a motion was made to provide funding to the Adventure banding program up to a maximum of $800** ***with the proviso that Gemma Radko, the Master Bander for the project, attend the September Board Meeting to brief the Board on her research project.*** **The motion was seconded and approved by the Board.**

Karen Morley stated that she intended to continue setting up specific agendas for each Board Meeting as Norm Saunders had done during his tenure. ***She urged anyone who wanted to bring something before the Board to contact her well in advance so that the item could be inserted into the formal agenda.***

Since no further items of business remained to be discussed, Norm formally presented the gavel to Karen Morley and wished her the best of luck in her new role as President.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norm Saunders, President

NOTE: Board actions are shown in bold and items which require action are printed in bold italic type.

Appendix A: MOS Nature Store Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is this store?

A: The Maryland Ornithological Society now has the ability to sell nature-related books, optics, jewelry, and other items, such as feeders and seed, to those who enter the MOS store via the MOS website. Purchases are made online by credit card and are shipped to the address the buyer specifies by UPS or Federal Express. Our storefront and every page of the online catalog clearly identifies MOS as the seller.

Q: How can MOS offer this service?

A: MOS has joined forces with a company called Birding.com, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Thayer Birding Software. The arrangement MOS has entered into is called the Birding.com Affiliates Pro-

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JUNE BOARD MEETING

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gram. You should understand that the seller of the merchandise is the Maryland Ornithological Society. Birding.com acts as MOS's distributor of goods, and provides credit card services, the e-commerce hardware and software necessary to support the online catalog and order forms, shipping, and handling of returns, where necessary.

Q: How much will this cost MOS?

A: MOS has not had to spend one penny to join the Affiliates Program and the arrangement can be cancelled at any time with no notice required. Should the MOS decide they would like to sell their own items from the web-store, such as MOS mugs, hats, or t-shirts, a small one-time charge is levied by Birding.com for each item to cover the costs of programming the custom catalog pages. These are the only direct charges that would ever be incurred by MOS from their arrangement with Birding.com. If we should elect not to sell custom items, then no charges would ever accrue to MOS.

Q. How does Birding.com profit from this?

A. Birding.com offers items to MOS at a set cost. Typically, hardback and softback books are offered at 63% of suggested retail price. Birding.com's profit margins are built into the price charged MOS. MOS, in turn, decides what profit margin to set on an item, which determines the cost to our users. MOS specifies markups on the following items:

Item	Suggested by Thayer	MOS Markup
Paperback Books:	25%-60%	25%
Hardcover Books:	25%-60%	25%
High Margin Items:	35%-60%	50%
Low Margin Items:	20%-40%	20%
Optics:	15%-30%	25%

An example may help here. The new **National Geographic Guide to the Birds of North America** lists for $21.95. Birding.com charges MOS $13.83 (63% of the retail list price). MOS in turn applies a 25% markup, so the cost to a buyer from our site is $17.29 plus shipping. The buyer gets a discount of $4.66 less shipping, and MOS accrues a profit of $3.46 less the 2.5% credit card processing fee (charged by the credit card company and NOT by Birding.com). No, this isn't much of a profit for MOS, but profit is not the motive in setting up this store. MOS has set the store up for the convenience of our members, first and foremost. If the store makes enough money each year to cover the costs of selling MOS logo items and publications, then all the better, but that is not a goal of the operation.

Q: How are these profits distributed to MOS?

A: Once a quarter, Birding.com will send a check to the MOS Treasurer, as long as accrued profits are $100 or more since the last check was issued. If less than $100 in profits have accumulated, the amount accumulated will be held until the total reaches $100 or until the arrangement between Birding.com and MOS is terminated. The profit checks are never seen by the Website Coordinator but quarterly sales reports are issued to that person and will be shared with the Board on a regular basis. The preliminary test version of the MOS online nature store became available on 3 January 2000. Since that time, here is a report of sales and profits to MOS:

Sales:	$163.86
Expenses:	135.04
Cost of Goods:	$130.35
Credit Card Charges:	4.69
Income to MOS:	$28.82

Q: How safe is the MOS Nature Store for our members to use?

A: A secure server is used by Birding.com to accept credit card orders. Codes and algorithms used in sending this information over the Internet make it virtually impossible to intercept and decode. As a result, shopping with the MOS Nature Store is very safe. The Birding.com secure-server software encrypts credit card numbers so that no one else can read it. Their secure-server software is the industry standard and among the best software available today for secure commerce transactions. It uses 128-bit encryption to encode all personal information, including credit card number, name, and address, so that it cannot be intercepted or read by others as the information travels over the Internet.

Clearly some people won't feel this to be an adequate safeguard. The ultimate decision to order from the MOS Nature Store has to be an individual one, but we feel one with very low risk factors.

Q: What about our tax-exempt status?

A: Generally speaking, there are many other non-profit organizations selling, both in real bricks & mortar stores or on-line. Karen Morley, our president-elect and an attorney with the Environmental Protection Agency, has researched this issue and will report to the Board at the June meeting.

Q: What other organizations are part of the Birding.com Affiliates Program?

A: Currently, Birding.com lists 88 organizations as Affiliates. Of these, 26 list themselves as non-profit organizations. Some of these non-profits include:

Friends of Monomoy
Bedford Audubon Society
Audubon International
Wildlands Conservancy Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
White Clay Watershed Association
Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS)
Kentucky Society of Natural History
South Alabama Birding Association
Michigan Audubon Society
Louisiana Ornithological Society

Q: Can the Chapters participate in the MOS Nature Store?

A: Yes, absolutely. The MOS Nature Center can add custom items. There is a one-time charge of $10 per item for the first ten items and $5 per item thereafter. The MOS webmaster will work with individual chapters that may wish to sell items (even including membership renewals!) to help you get started and all revenues from these types of sales will accrue to the Chapters themselves.

Q: What if I have more questions?

A: Visit the Birding.com Affiliates FAQ page on the Internet at:
http://www.birding.com/affiliate_faq.asp

MOS Calendar
November 2000 to January 2001

November

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Saturdays at Hart-Miller Island. Meet 7:00 a.m. sharp. Strenuous carry-your-scope hike, 7 miles on shifting sand and gravel under open sky with no shelter or shade; one rest stop (bathrooms) half way around the trek. Carry drinks, lunch, sunscreen and insect repellant. For shorebirds, possible rare gulls. Merlins and Peregrine Falcons in fall; Snow Buntings in winter. Maryland's best shorebird hotspot by far. For reservations, call Gene Scarpulla, (410) 388-0852 or ejscarp@juno.com.

Wednesday, November 1

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Ft. McHenry. Monthly survey of bird activity at the wetland. Folding chair and telescope useful. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain). Meet 9:30 a.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. Coordinators Gail Frantz (410) 833-7135, guineabird@aol.com, and Catherine Bishop, (410) 435-9569.

MEETING. Carroll. "Israel — The Billion-Bird Flight" by Gail Mackiernan. Meet 7:30 p.m. at Carroll Community College, Westminster. For more information, call Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

Thursday, November 2

MEETING. Frederick. Don Messersmith will give a slide presentation on Birding in Eastern Australia. Meet in the Frederick High School Music Room at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 3

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Bird Banding - Hows and Whys" by Kathy Klimkiewicz. 8:00 p.m. at the DNR Conference Room, Tawes Building, corner of Taylor Avenue and Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis.

MEETING. Harford. A slide program on hummingbirds will be given by Ross Hawkins, founder and president of The Hummingbird Society. Meet at 6:15 p.m. at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. For further information, call 410-692-9305.

Saturday, November 4

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Horsehead Sanctuary for waterfowl, migrants and captive species. Half day. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot of the Bay 50 Shopping Center of Rt. 50 at Mikasa. For further information, contact the leader, Bobbi Reichwein at 410-451-2671.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. A series of walks co-sponsored by the Wild Bird Center. Diverse habitats include a stream, a pond, woods and fields. Expect to see a variety of resident and migrant birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Meyers, at 410-435-2008, or call the Wild Bird Center at 410-666-4550 for a complete list of trip dates.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Bird Walk at Piney Run Park. It's time again to look at waterfowl so don't forget your binoculars & telescopes. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the park's gate on Martz Rd, Sykesville. For more information, contact trip leader Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Clean-up Day at Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary. Help with chores and squeeze in some birding too. Bring heavy gloves and binoculars and meet at the Park & Ride, Rte. 75 just south of I-70 at 7:30 a.m. For further information, contact David Smith at 410-549-7082.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Owl Prowl. An early evening search for Owls near Rocks State Park. Possible species include Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Eastern Screech Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owls. Meet at 4:30 pm at the Forest Hill Klein's, intersection of MD23 & MD24. For further information, contact the leaders, Harold Boling at 410-638-5318 or Debbie Bowers at 410-692-9741.

FIELD TRIP. Kent. Blackwater NWR for waterfowl. Meet at the Dollar General Store parking lot at the intersection of Rt. 213 and Spring Avenue, Chestertown at 7:30 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Gail Regester, at 410-778-9367.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. We'll be looking for ducks along the Potomac and Shenandoah. For more information contact Bob Keedy, at 301-733-7708.

Sunday, November 5

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Horsehead Wetlands Sanctuary. Half-day trip to see wild ducks, captive breeding birds and birds of prey in rehabilitation area. Walk trails and boardwalk over the marsh. Observation towers overlook east side of Kent Island. Easy walking. Telescopes useful. Entrance fee waived for BBC members. Option to meet there 8:00 a.m. or at 7:00 a.m. at the Nursery Rd.- Hammonds Ferry Rd. Park & Ride at Beltway exit 8. For further information, contact the coordinator, Terry Ross, at 410-467-8137 or email: tross@bcpl.net.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Bird Watching at Town Hill. Fall migration for accipiters is in full swing & you never know who might be flying overhead. Last year, the Northern Goshawk was seen! Come all day (don't forget to bring a lunch) or even just part of the day. Meet 7:00 a.m. at the Park & Ride at Rt. 32 & I-70. Greg Klein, 410-840-9384, will lead the caravan to meet trip leader Mark Hoffman, 410-549-3598, at Town Hill.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Walk around the lake on the paved path to view waterfowl and woodland birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end lot. The leader is Ralph Cullison. For further information, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Blackwater NWR: Bald Eagle (and maybe a Golden?), wintering waterfowl. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. Leader: Roger Stone (410-770-9636).

Tuesday, November 7

MEETING. Baltimore. Mystery Program to be announced in Chip Notes. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. The Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore.

Thursday, November 9

MEETING. Howard. "Hart-Miller Island: A Brief History through Time," by Gene Scarpulla. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Don Waugh at 410-381-8841.

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MOS CALENDAR

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MEETING. Montgomery. "The Maryland/DC Records Committee: What it is, How it works, and How you can help Document Rarities." by Paul O'Brien, Montgomery County Chapter, MOS. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD.

MEETING. Talbot. "There are no warblers in Australia" by Dr. Donald Meritt, Horn Point Laboratory and Talbot MOS Chapter. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at SunTrust (formerly Crestar) Bank Maryland Room (basement meeting room), Goldsborough and Harrison Streets, Easton. Enter from parking lot behind building.

Friday-Sunday, November 10-12

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Waterfowl Festival Display and Morning Walks. Contact the coordinator, Austin Farley (410-822-7871; austin@goeaston.net), for more .

Friday, November 10

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Wilde Lake. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the boat dock to walk along the lake and wooded path. For further information, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

Saturday, November 11

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Sandy Point State Park for a variety of fall and wintering birds. Half day. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot of the Bay 50 Shopping Center of Rt. 50 at Mikasa. For further information, contact the leader, Al Haury at 410-923-0881.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Avalon Seawatch (w/ possible side trip to Cape May Hawk Watch). Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Cecil Community Collage Parking Lot. 3/4 day. For further information, contact the leaders, Leslie Fisher, at 410-658-2427 or Marcia Whitmyre, at 410-398-0125.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Saw-Whet Owl Banding Station, 1/2 night. Visit Banding Station at South Mountain, MD to see saw-whet owl banding by Steve Huy. Meet at 9 p.m. at Rt. 80 Park and Ride (off Rt. 270). Limit 15. Call leader for reservations (required) and more information. November 12 for rain date. LEADER: Gemma Radko 301 607-4374

Sunday, November 12

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Merkle WMA. Mixed woodland, field and marsh habitat. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Fred Fallon.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Harford Waterfowl Trip. Marvel at the thousands of Lesser Scaup on the Gunpowder River, and search among them for the occasional Redhead, Long-tailed Duck (A.K.A. Oldsquaw) and scoters. Then visit Havre de Grace for a wide variety of waterfowl including American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler and Tundra Swan. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the MD 24 gate to the Edgewood Area of the Aberdeen Proving Ground. Scopes are helpful, although not necessary. For further information, contact the leader, Dave Webb at 410-939-3537.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Walk around the lake on the paved path to view waterfowl and woodland birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end lot. The leader TBA. For further information, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

Monday, November 13

MEETING. Kent. TBA. 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Library, Chestertown. For further information, contact Pat Wilson, at 410-778-1005.

Thursday, November 16

MEETING. Caroline. "Birding in Belize" presented by Dr. Robert Trever. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, Denton Meeting Room, 100 Market Street, Denton, MD.

Saturday-Sunday, November 18-19

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Chincoteague NWR, VA for waterfowl and landbirds. Make reservations by Nov 12. For further information an d reservations, contact the leader, Larry Zoller, at 410-647-9354.

Saturday, November 18

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. A series of walks co-sponsored by the Wild Bird Center. Diverse habitats include a stream, a pond, woods and fields. Expect to see a variety of resident and migrant birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Meyers, at 410-435-2008, or call the Wild Bird Center at 410-666-4550 for a complete list of trip dates.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Blackwater NWR for waterfowl and late migrants. Bring your lunch and meet at Urbana Park & Ride at 6:00 a.m. Call Lois Kauffman at 301-845-6690 to confirm.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Sandy Point State Park, Anne Arundel County (1/2 Day) To Blackwater NWR (full day)-Wintering waterfowl, other waterbirds, some landbirds. Reservations not required but please call leader for more information. Meet just beyond park toll booth at 9 a.m. (no entrance fee this time of year) LEADER: Don Messersmith, 301 593-5942

Sunday, November 19

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Eastern Neck NWR. Prime winter birding area fronting the Chesapeake Bay in Kent County. Excellent for swans, bay ducks, Northern Harrier and Horned Larks. Bring lunch; all day trip with easy walking. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the I-95 & MD 155 commuter lot (Havre de Grace exit). For further information, contact the leaders, Larry and Jean Fry, at 410-452-8539.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Walk around the lake on the paved path to view waterfowl and woodland birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end lot. The leader is Mike Kerwin. For further information, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Lilypons - New Design Rd, 1/2 day. Wintering field birds, targeting fox and tree sparrows and possible loggerhead shrike. Will include stop at Black Hill Reservoir, if conditions look good for waterbirds. Call leader for reservations (required) and more information. LEADER: Gail MacKiernan 301 989-1828

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Day Trip. Elliott' s Island: Marsh birds, waterfowl, and winter residents in for the long haul. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. Co-leaders: Paul Spitzer (410-476-5163; spitzer_paul@hotmail.com), and Wayne Bell (410-820-6002; Wayne.Bell@washcoll.edu).

Monday, November 20

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Lake Elkhorn. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Broken Land Parkway lot to walk around the lake on paved path to view waterfowl and woodland birds. For further information, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

Saturday, November 25

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Blackwater NWR, Dorchester County. Snow Geese and swans. Meet 1:00 p.m. at the parking lot of the Bay 50 Shopping Center of Rt. 50 at Mikasa. For further information, contact the leader, Paul Speyser, at 410-266-5669.

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MOS CALENDAR

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FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Bombay Hook NWR. & Little Creek WMA. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. All day. For further information, contact the leader, Richard Donham, at 410-932-0634.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Dam. One of the best locations for mid-Atlantic birding at this time of year. The dam hosts dozens of Bald Eagles and thousands of gulls. Other possible sightings include Golden Eagle, Black-crowned Night Heron and Pileated Woodpecker. Scopes are helpful. Meet at 8:00 am at the pavilion at the North end of Fisherman's Park, which is located at the end of Shures Landing Road. For further information, contact the leader, Dave Larkin, at 410-569-8319.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Point Lookout State Park, 2/3 day. Excellent site for wintering waterfowl with possibility of surprises. We'll also visit some other locations along the lower Patuxent River. Easy 2-hour drive from DC area. Reservations required. Limit:12. Call leader for reservation, time and place to meet. LEADER: Greg Miller 301 373-3452

Sunday, November 26

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Walk around the lake on the paved path to view waterfowl and woodland birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end lot. The leader TBA. For further information, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Tilghman Island: Wintering waterfowl and lingering landbirds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Michaels Village Shopping Center next to the Talbot Bank. Leader: Jan Reese (410-745-2875).

Tuesday, November 28

MEETING. Washington. Members' Night. A time to share information and experiences. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center, Hagerstown. For further information contact Janet Shields at 301-416-7109.

Friday, December 1

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Birding the Northern Great Plains" by Hal Wierenga. 8:00 p.m. at the DNR Conference Room, Tawes Building, corner of Taylor Avenue and Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis.

Saturday, December 2

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Southern Maryland. All-day trip to Point Lookout and other locations. Scoters, Oldsquaw, Great Cormorants, Bald Eagles, Brown-headed Nuthatches, and Gannets possible. Birding near cars with minimal walking. Telescopes useful. Bring Lunch. Trip may not go if weather judged unfavorable. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Sanford, at 410-922-5103.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Eagle Watch - Conowingo Dam. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Fisherman's Park. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leaders, Charlie Gant, at 410-398-3554 or Sean McCandless, at 410-392-3407.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Black Hills Regional Park for waterfowl and winter birds. Meet at Urbana Park & Ride at 7:30 a.m. Call Doug or Nancy Parker at 301-663-1909 for information.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Blackwater NWR. All day trip for Bald eagles and waterfowl . Call Bonnie to reserve a spot and work out carpooling arrangements. Plan to bring a lunch, dress very warmly and bring scope if possible. For further information, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

Sunday, December 3

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Nottingham County Park, Lancaster County, PA. Target species will be Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pileated Woodpecker and Pine Warbler. Meet at the Conowingo visitor center off of Conowingo road (Route 1) at 7:30 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Mark Johnson, at 410-692-5978.

Tuesday, December 5

MEETING. Baltimore. Show-n-Tell Night. Bring your beautiful, interesting or unusual slides of local or exotic birds and share them with members and friends of the Baltimore Bird Club. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. The Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore.

Wednesday, December 6

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Ft. McHenry. Monthly survey of bird activity at the wetland. Folding chair and telescope useful. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain). Meet 9:30 a.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. Coordinators Gail Frantz 410-833-7135, guineabird@aol.com, and Catherine Bishop, 410-435-9569.

Thursday, December 7

MEETING. Frederick. Christmas Dinner And Meeting. Bob Mumford will give a presentation on the Birds at Churchill. Please make reservations with and send money to President Doug Parker or Treasurer Lois Kauffman before 11/25/00.

Saturday, December 9

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Ft. McHenry Clean-up. General public invited to help restore this mitigated (man-made) marsh by removing debris and planting native vegetation. Rain or shine. Register in advance with the Aquarium volunteer office, 410-576-3886. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Fort McHenry just past the statue of Orpheus. Bring Lunch, all-day trip.

Tuesday, December 12

MEETING. Kent. "Birding at the End of the Earth: Attu, Alaska" by Daphne Gemmill. 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Library, Chestertown. For further information, contact Pat Wilson, at 410-778-1005.

Thursday, December 14

MEETING. Howard. "Cuba: You Can't Get There from Here," by Hank Kaestner. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Don Waugh at 410-381-8841.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Chivalry is Dead in Migratory Birds!" by Peter Marra, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD.

Saturday, December 16

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Baltimore harbor for wintering waterfowl. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Severna Park Park & Ride lot located on the corner of Jones Station Road and Ritchie Highway. For further information, contact the leader, Larry Zoller, at 410-647-9354.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Cape Henlopen, DE. Prime location at the mouth of the Delaware Bay for winter specialties such as Snowy Owl, Snow Bunting, Great Cormorant and sea ducks. This all-day trip will include an hour or two of walking on sand. Bring lunch and warm, comfortable clothing. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the I-95/MD 155 commuter lot (Havre de Grace exit). For further information, contact the leader, Russ Kovach, at 410-679-0535.

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MOS CALENDAR

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Monday, January 1

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. New Year's Day & The Seasons at Fair Hill - Winter. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Fair Hill Nature Center Covered Bridge Parking Lot. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Parke John, at 410-287-6037 (H) or 410-506-3874 (W).

FIELD TRIP. Howard. New Year's Day. Our annual trip to wherever and possibly all over Howard county to tally as many birds for the year 2001. A mid-day lunch stop at a local eating establishment and further afternoon birding for the die hards! For further information, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

Wednesday, January 3

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Ft. McHenry. Monthly survey of bird activity at the wetland. Folding chair and telescope useful. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain). Meet 9:30 a.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. Coordinators Gail Frantz 410-833-7135, guineabird@aol.com, and Catherine Bishop, 410-435-9569.

Thursday, January 4

MEETING. Frederick. TBD. Meet in the Frederick High School Music Room at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, January 5

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Rare Birds of Maryland" by Mark Hoffman. 8:00 p.m. at the DNR Conference Room, Tawes Building, corner of Taylor Avenue and Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis.

Saturday, January 6

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Saturdays at Hart-Miller Island. Meet 7:00 a.m. sharp. Strenuous carry-your-scope hike, 7 miles on shifting sand and gravel under open sky with no shelter or shade; one rest stop (bathrooms) half way around the trek. Carry drinks, lunch, sunscreen and insect repellant. For shorebirds, possible rare gulls. Merlins and Peregrine Falcons in fall; Snow Buntings in winter. Maryland's best shorebird hotspot by far. For reservations, call Gene Scarpulla, (410) 388-0852 or ejscarp@juno.com.

Sunday, January 7

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Gull Watch. Led by noted gull-watcher Gene Scarpulla, this all-morning trip may turn up such winter rarities as Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, or Black-headed Gulls. Non-gulls should include Bald Eagle, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and mergansers. Mostly stationary trip with only minimal walking; heavy clothing and a warm beverage recommended. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the base of the dam, at the East end of Shures Landing Road. For more information, contact coordinator Rick Cheicante at 410-803-2712.

Thursday, January 11

MEETING. Montgomery. "Birding in Eastern Australia" by Donald Messersmith, Montgomery County Chapter, MOS. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD.

Saturday-Monday, January 13-15

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Ocean City and environs. We are putting together a trip for the eastern shore. Call Bonnie for details and to reserve a spot. For further information, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

Saturday, January 13

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Conowingo Dam, Harford County for gulls, gulls, gulls and other wintering birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Severna Park Park & Ride lot located in the NW corner at the intersection of Jones Station Road and Ritchie Highway. For further information, contact the leader, Sue Ricciardi, at 410-647-9513.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Winter Waterfowl at Marshy Point. Our first visit to Baltimore County's newest nature center for winter waterfowl: ducks, geese, swans. Half mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable. Telescopes useful. Exit Beltway I-695 at Rt. 702 south. 2nd exit onto Chase / Eastern Blvd. Go 6 miles. Turn right at sign for Dundee & Saltpeter Creek Park. Go 1/4 mile to dead end. Alternate date: Sat Jan 20 if weather is questionable. To confirm, call the leader and Chief Naturalist, Bob Stanhope or the coordinator, Bea Nicholls at 410-687-1461 or birderbea@aol.com.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Ocean Trip. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. Full Day. For further information, contact the leader, Sean McCandless, at 410-392-3407.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Frederick County Feeder Watch. A leisurely tour to 5 member homes to watch our winter residents. Call Lois Kauffman at 301-845-6690 for details.

FIELD TRIP. Kent. Feeder watch at the Lorenz's home. Meet at the Dollar General Store parking lot at the intersection of Rt. 213 and Spring Avenue, Chestertown at 8:30 a.m.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. A winter C&O Canal Walk. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Dept. of Motor Vehicles Park 'n Ride on Rt. 65, Hagerstown. For further information contact Judy Lilga at 301-432-2276.

Sunday, January 14

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Conowingo Dam for gulls and eagles. Thousands of gulls, possibly some rarities, as well as waterfowl, raptors and eagles. Wear warm clothing and boots. Telescopes useful. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the White Marsh Mall at light pole on NE side of Sears. For further information, contact the leader, Gene Scarpulla, at 410-821-0575.

MEETING. Baltimore. Covered Dish Supper at 5:30 p.m.. "Birding Adventures in Cuba" with world traveling McCormick Spice Company purchase agent and birder Hank Kaestner. For your dish assignment, register by Thursday, Jan 11 with Carolyn Webb at 410-486-1217.

Thursday, January 18

MEETING. Caroline. "Birder's Eye View of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed" presented by Dr. Wayne Bell. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, Denton Meeting Room, 100 Market Street, Denton, MD.

Sunday, January 21

FIELD TRIP. Harford. South Baltimore. Target species include Ring-necked Pheasant, Short-eared Owl, sparrows and waterfowl. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the I-95 / MD 152 Park and Ride lot. For further details contact Mark Johnson at 410-692-5978.

Tuesday, January 23

MEETING. Washington. Potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. and meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center, Hagerstown. Jonathan Kays will give a talk on The Challenges Facing Forests and Wildlife in the Mid-Atlantic: Past, Present and Future. For further information contact Janet Shields at 301-416-7109.

Saturday, January 27

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Cecil Waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the North East Plaza Acme Parking Lot. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Leslie Fisher, at 410-658-2427.

(continued at top of next page)

MOS CALENDAR

(continued from previous page)

Sunday, January 28

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Annapolis Neck & Thomas Point, A. A. County. Waterfowl birding and socializing over soup. Meet at 12:00 noon at the Bay Ridge Shop. For further information, contact the leader, Gerald Winegrad, at 410-280-8956.

Call For Papers—MOS Annual Conference

by Dave Brinker

The MOS Research Committee sponsors oral presentations at our annual conferences. The next conference is scheduled for 10-12 August 2001 at Salisbury State University in Wicomico County. If you would like to share the results of any research on the natural history of Maryland birdlife, please contact Dave Brinker by e-mail at dbrinker@bellatlantic.net, or by phone at (410) 744-3246, or by 15 July 2001, send an abstract to: David F. Brinker, MOS Research Committee, 1200 Frederick Rd., Catonsville, MD 21228.

MARYLAND CHRISTMAS COUNTS AND COMPILERS, 2000-2001

Saturday, December 16

Allegany County — for information contact Chuck Hager (Frostburg), 301-689-5344.
Denton — Steve Westre (Denton), 410-479-0338.
Elkton — Joel Citron (Wilmington, DE), 302-475-8773.
Oakland — Connie Skipper (Oakland), 301-387-5227. ***
Triadelphia Reservoir — Rick Sussman (Ashton), 301-774-1185.
Washington, DC — John Bjerke, compiler. New participants call the Audubon Naturalist Society (Chevy Chase), 301-652-9188.

Sunday, December 17

Catoctin Mountain — Mike Welch (Frederick), 301-874-5828.
Jug Bay — Sam Droege (Hyattsville), 410-798-6759 (H) & 301-497-5840 (O). ***
Lower Kent County — Paul Toulson (Chestertown), 410-778-4123. ***
Port Tobacco — George Wilmot (Bryans Road), 301-375-8552.
St. Michaels — Frank Lawlor (Royal Oak), 410-745-6039 or Bill Novak (Easton), 410-822-2432. ***
Salisbury — Charles Vaughn (Salisbury), 410-742-7221.
Seneca — Steve Pretl (Potomac), 202-387-4518.

Saturday, December 23

Baltimore Harbor — Peter Webb (Baltimore), 410-486-1217.
Point Lookout - Bob Boxwell (Dameron), 301-872-5998.

Wednesday, December 27

Crisfield — Charles Vaughn (Salisbury), 410-742-7221.

Thursday, December 28

Ocean City — Jay Sheppard (Laurel) 301-725-5559.

Friday, December 29

Southern Dorchester County (Blackwater) — Chan Robbins (Laurel), 301-725-1176.

Saturdayday, December 30

Rock Run — Russel Kovach (Joppatown), 410-679-0535
Washington County — David Weesner (Boonsboro), 301-432-7718.

Sunday, December 31

Annapolis/Gibson Island — Sue Ricciardi (Arnold), 410-647-9513 or Hal Wierenga & Lynn Davidson (Arnold), 410-647-7439. ***
Fort Belvoir—Carol Ghebelian, Maryland Coordinator (Indian Head), 301-753-6754.
Patuxent River — Doug Lister, 301-994-2582 (H) or 301-342-3670 (O).
Sugarloaf Mountain — Rob Gibbs (Gaithersburg), 301-253-6903.

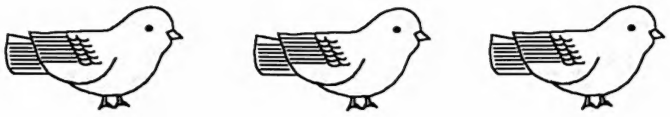
Monday, January1

Bowie — Fred Fallon (Bowie), 301-249-1518.

Counts marked *** were not confirmed as we went to press. Check the MOS website at www.mdbirds.org for last minute information.

The Mos Nature Store

Online At
http://www.birding.com/Mosstore



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The copy deadline for the Jan/Feb issue of the Yellowthroat is November 25 for chapter activities and December 1 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for November-January to:

Les Eastman
4034 Wilkinson Rd.
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
W: 410-671-3490
H: 410-734-6969

Please send all other submissions to the editor:

Norman C. Saunders
1261 Cavendish Drive
Colesville, MD 20905
H: 301-989-9035
W: 202-606-5701

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